Hafa Adai!

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Camacho sworn in for another 6 years on the bench. PAGE 2
14 naturalized in observance of Veterans Day. PAGE 3

NMC opens NMC Health Simulation Center

By CHRYSTAL MARINO
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CORRESPONDENT

The Northern Marianas College officially opened yesterday its NMC Health Simulation Center that will give their nursing and allied health students a chance to practice in life-like scenarios and enhance the educational experience overall.

The ribbon-cutting ceremony, attended by several dignitaries that included Gov. Arnold I Palacios, was held at the college's As Ter-

See NMC on Page 4

NMC
Northern Marianas College officials, alongside Gov. Arnold I. Palacios, Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. CEO Esther Muna, CNMI Board of Nursing chair Roca Sablan, Erica Davis and Dr. Kelley Withey of the Hawaii/Pacific Basin Area Health Education Center, cut the ribbon to officially open the college's newest nursing simulation center.

Propst: Gov't is trying to balance its budget

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Propst

In what he claims as a first, this government, which Rep. Edwin K. Propst (D-Saipan) described as responsible, is going to try to balance its budget.

See PROPST on Page 4

BOE to offer COE post to Dr. Lawrence F. Camacho

Camacho

The CNMI Board of Education intends to offer the position of education commissioner to Dr. Lawrence F. Camacho.

For more than two months now, Special Education Program director Donna M. Flores has been the interim education commissioner. The BOE unanimously appointed Flores last Sept. 2 following the resignation of Dr. Alfred B. Ada due to health reasons.

"We intend to offer Dr. Camacho the position

See BOE on Page 4

Saipan's youngest diver breaks world record

By CHRYSTAL MARINO
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CORRESPONDENT

A 10-year-old resident of Saipan took his final dive at Grotto before becoming officially Professional Association of Diving Instructors-certified, and breaking the world's record of being the youngest PADI-certified

See DIVER on Page 4

CHRYSTAL MARINO
With his parents looking on, 10-year-old Finn Fraiche makes a hang loose sign with instructor Jay Wolfe after completing his dive at the Grotto last Friday.

CHRYSTAL MARINO
Finn Fraiche stands with his family shortly after completing his record-breaking dive on Friday at the Grotto. From left to right last row Finn's parents Laura Webb and Geoff Fraiche, and Finn's instructor from Axe Murderers Marianas Jay Wolfe.

INSIDE

BUSINESS
Follow the crumbs to Chalan Kanoa as Parker Bake Sale is now a brick-and-mortar establishment named The Cookie Shop.
PAGE 11

NATION
President Joe Biden has a simple reelection pitch to voters—let him "finish the job."
PAGE 12

WORLD
Health officials and people trapped inside Gaza's largest hospital rejected Israel's claims that it was helping babies and others evacuate.
PAGE 13

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Local

Camacho sworn in for another 6 years on the bench

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
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REPORTER

Superior Court Associate Judge Joseph Camacho, who was nominated to serve another six years on the bench last election, was officially sworn in over the weekend at the Crowne Plaza Resort Saipan.

Lt. Gov. David M. Apatang, who served with Camacho in the CNMI legislature in the past, administered the oath of office to Camacho, who said that one of the improvements he hopes to see in his next six years is for the CNMI's mental health and illness laws to be updated.

In his new term, Camacho said he hopes to see some improvements, most importantly in the CNMI's current laws on mental health and illnesses, and for better access to the court for the islands of Rota and Tinian.

Camacho said the CNMI's laws on mental health and illnesses have not been updated in years and has not kept pace with the CNMI's understanding of the field.

» 'CNMI mental health and illness laws need to be updated'

"There have been many improvements in our understanding in the field of mental health and illness. Unfortunately, the CNMI mental health and illness laws, as it applies to defendants brought to the court, have not been updated for over 30 years. It requires a legislator or legislators to champion this issue to introduce the necessary bill to update the CNMI's mental health and illness laws," he said.

As for better access to the court on Rota and Tinian, Camacho said he doesn't just hope for an improvement—the people of Rota and Tinian deserve it.

"The people of Rota and Tinian deserve the same access to the court. There is a need to improve the technology at the Rota and Tinian courthouse with better and faster internet speeds and more reliable conference equipment so the people of Rota and Tinian can attend and participate at a higher and better quality of virtual hearings without the need to wait for months for judges to fly to Rota and Tinian. This requires continuous legislation [and] funding to keep and maintain high speed internet access and conferencing equipment," he said.

KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
Last Friday, a ceremonial swearing in was held for Superior Court Associate Judge Joseph Camacho at the Crowne Plaza Resort Saipan.Lt. Gov. David M. Apatang administered the oath of office o Camacho.

Camacho said he is humbled and blessed by the trust the people of the CNMI continue to put in him by nominating him to serve his third term as a sitting Superior Court judge.

"I was originally confirmed on Nov. 10, 2011, 12 years ago. I am humbled and blessed by the CNMI voters when they overwhelmingly voted for me to continue as a judge in 2016 and again in 2022. Judges take an oath to follow the Constitution and laws, to give each case the attention it deserves, decide the case based on the law and the facts presented in the courtroom. to be fair, impartial, and not be swayed by fear or failure or improper pressure, passion sympathy, prejudice, or bias. It is an honor and privilege to serve as judge," he said.

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14 naturalized in observance of Veterans Day

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The U.S. District Court for the NMI swore in 36 new U.S. citizens in a special Veterans Day naturalization ceremony yesterday.

The newly naturalized citizens are Azenith Madelo Avila, Bryan James Corpuz Balboa, Lucia Topacio Camama, Remedios Delizo Castillo, Adela Pait Dawayen, Angel Bagangan Dawayen, Charles Yongcheng Hu, Andrea Gomez Meneses, Ronaldo Beltran Meneses, Mark Joseph Sombilla Mole, Elvavenus Gamatan Pajarillo, Wilma Quila Pangelinan, Kammala Mudalige Annie Mary Thamel, and Maria Luz Mateo Williams.

KIMBERLY B. ESMORES

The U.S. District Court for the NMI swore in 36 new U.S. citizens through a special Veterans Day celebration naturalization ceremony yesterday.

Aside from honoring veterans, yesterday's ceremony was made even more special with U.S. District Court for the NMI Senior Judge Alex Munson presiding as he hasn't presided over one in years.

In his remarks, Munson congratulated the newly naturalized citizens and touched on how special their ceremony was as it was held in honor of those who fought for the nation they chose to be citizens of.

In addition, Munson reminded the new citizens of the responsibilities they now have as U.S. citizens, which include jury duty and voting. He encouraged them to fulfill their new duties to their country.

Military veteran and lawyer Joe McDoulette, who was chosen to speak in yesterday's naturalization ceremony, said that citizens who are naturalized and veterans share a common love of the country.

"These groups, those who have chosen to become citizens, and those who chose to serve in the U.S. military, share one characteristic, and that is their love for this country and the love for the freedoms it provides," he said.

McDoulette also commended the journey each of the newly naturalized citizens had to go through to become citizens.

"You have shown to the world that you chose this. You guys have worked hard to get here today, and you deserve recognition. It's not easy to learn what you had to learn and to show that you could make it," he said.

McDoulette echoed Munson in encouraging the new citizens to carry out their new duties and responsibilities as citizens.

$100K salary for Cabrera, $77K for Guerrero pushed

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Gov. Arnold I. Palacios has certified and approved the annual salaries of $100,000 and $77,000 for Office of Grants Management grants administrator Epiphanio Cabrera Jr. and Public Assistance Office officer Patrick C. Guerrero, respectively.

Guerrero

Both salaries exceed the $65,175 cap set by the Compensation Adjustment Act, hence the need to have the salaries approved by the Legislature.

Palacios sent his letter of certification of the salary last week to Senate President Edith E. DeLeon Guerrero (D-Saipan) and House of Representatives Speaker Edmund S. Villagomez (Ind-Saipan).

Palacios said in an interview with the media on Friday that both positions are federally funded. He said Cabrera and Guerrero have been with the government for several years now.

The governor said Cabrera has been very active over the years and now is not the time to lose the synergy that is created for all federal grants.

He said Cabrera administers over $100 million in federal grants for the central government.

As for Guerrero, Palacios said he has been working very hard to get all Federal Emergency Management Agency reimbursements, and Public Assistance Program and Hazard Mitigation Programs for the CNMI.

The governor said that when he and Lt. Gov. David M. Apatang came in, the CNMI was behind on a lot of federally funded projects. He said he gave Guerrero an ultimatum as they don't have the luxury of time anymore. He quoted new Commonwealth Ports Authority board chair Jose Ayuyu in saying, "If you can't do it, we will courteously and respectfully ask you to step aside and get somebody to get it done."

Palacios said he has his own expectation and that he expects both Cabrera and Guerrero to get things done in a very efficient and effective manner.

Bill aims to allow businesses with more than 100 rooms to engage in e-games

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Rep. Ralph N. Yumul (Ind-Saipan) introduced yesterday a bill that will allow businesses that cumulatively own more than 100 hotel rooms to engage in electronic gaming activities.

Yumul's House Bill 23-85 proposed to amend the Commonwealth Code to add a new subsection to read that "any business that owns more than one hotel and/or resort and cumulatively contains 100 or more rooms shall be allowed to engage in gaming activities," provided however, that on Saipan "such activities must be conducted in western Garapan."

Under the bill, "business" shall mean any sole proprietorship, corporation, association, business trust, company, joint venture company, or limited liability company.

The operation electronic gaming activities in the CNMI was authorized by Public Law 18-30—or the Tourism Entertainment and Destination Enhancement Act of 2013—to bolster the CNMI's economy. Pursuant to that law, electronic gaming activities can only be conducted in an enclosed area of a hotel or resort that has over 100 or more rooms or with fewer than 100 rooms, provided that they are attached to a golf course.

Yumul, who chairs the House of Representatives Gaming Committee, stated in the bill that these requirements have become problematic for electronic gaming activities due to the CNMI's current economic state.

Right now, there are some businesses within the CNMI that own more than one resort and/or hotel, yet because of the room requirement set in the Commonwealth Code, none of those individual resorts/hotels are eligible to operate an electronic gaming facility due to the fact they do not contain more than 100 rooms nor are they attached to a golf course, Yumul said.

He underscored the need to amend the statute to allow for businesses that own more than one resort/hotel that have 100 or more rooms in total to operate electronic gaming facilities.

He said this exemption would augment the electronic gaming industry's ability in bolstering the CNMI's economy.

Yumul said this exemption would create more jobs and provide more nighttime activities for tourists who are willing to use electronic gaming facilities.

500 Sails to launch newest canoe, *Den Yo Povi*

500 Sails is excited to invite the public to join the launching of its newest Chamorro canoe, a 15-foot duduli named *Den Yo Povi.*

The celebration will take place on Saturday, Nov. 18, from 11am to 1pm at the Guma Sakman, on the beach directly across from Marianas High School in Susupe.

See, learn, and experience the famous Flying Proas of the Mariana Islands starting at 9am with free rides and cultural fun for everyone.

The latest 15-foot Chamorro canoe built by 500 Sails has been painted by Jeremiah Benavente, using designs rooted in Arizona's Hopi and White Mountain Apache history and culture. *Den Yo Povi*, which means Blue Spruce Blossom, is named for Jeremiah's mother.

500 Sails is a 501©(3) and CNMI tax-exempt nonprofit organization dedicated to reviving, promoting, and preserving the maritime cultural traditions of the Mariana Islands through community engagement in canoe cultural values and activities. 500 Sails' vision is a healthy thriving native community that has successfully integrated traditional cultural values into modern life. Major supporting partners include the CNMI Office of Indigenous Affairs and IT&E. ***(PR)***

PETE PEREZ

Jeremiah Benavente paints the *Den Yo Povi* at the 500 Sails boatyard in Susupe.

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Attorney for Adminstratrix
Primitiva B. Camacho

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH FOR THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF:] Civil Action No.: 23-0065
DIONICIO M. BABAUTA, Decedent.] **NOTICE OF HEARING**

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the petition of Primitiva B. Camacho for the issuance of decree of final distribution will be heard before the Honorable Joseph N. Camacho, Associate Judge, on the 14th day of December, 2023, at 10:00a.m., at Room 220A, Superior Court of the Northern Mariana Islands, Susupe Village, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. All persons interested are hereby notified to appear at the hearing and show cause, if any, why the order should not be made.

Dated this 9th day of November, 2023.

Hon. JOSEPH N. CAMACHO
Associate Judge

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY
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AMENDED JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT # 01-2024

Opening date: October 30, 2023 **Closing date: November 17, 2023**

Location:	**SAIPAN**	**SALARY**
Position(s):	(1) AOA Controller-I	PL 5/1 to 5/12 ($8.83/hr to $15.10/hr)
	(1) ARFF Mechanic II	PL 6/1 to 6/12 ($9.27/hr to $15.85/hr)
	(1) General Maintenance-I	PL 3/1 to 3/12 ($8.01/hr to $13.70/hr)
	(1) Master Electrician	PL 19/1 to 19/12 ($17.48/hr to $29.90/hr)
Location:	**PORT OF SAIPAN**	
Position(s):	(1) Secretary II	PL 9/1 to 9/12 ($10.73/hr to $18.35/hr)
Location:	**TINIAN**	**SALARY**
Position(s):	(1) Custodial	PL 1/1 to 1/12 ($7.26/hr to $12.42/hr)
	(1) General Maintenance	PL 2/1 to 2/12 ($7.63/hr to $13.04/hr)
	(4) Ports Police/ARFF Trainee	PL 5/1 ($8.83/hr)
Location:	**ROTA**	**SALARY**
Position(s):	(2) Custodial/Maintenance-I	PL 2/1 to 2/12 ($7.63/hr to $13.04/hr)

Employment Application must be accompanied with a copy of all required diploma/certificates and/or official sealed transcripts, original copy of recent police record not more than six (6) months old, original copy of U.S. Department of Defense Form DD214 for retired members or veterans of our Armed Forces, and other documents as required for the position. Public Law 11-70 requires that all male applicants age 18 to 25 years old must submit documentation evidencing his registration with the Federal Selective Service System. All applications and required documents must be submitted to the ***CPA Administration Office, 2nd Floor Arrival Building, Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport or CPA Administration Office, Tinian International Airport, or Benjamin Taisacan Manglona International Airport.*** Failure to provide any of the required documents will result in automatic disqualification. Certain vacancies may require written and/or physical test. Selected applicants will be subjected to pre-employment drug screening, 10-year Criminal History Record Check and 49 CFR Part 1542.209(d) Requirements. CPA reserves the right to waive or implement other qualifications to meet its needs. The deadline for submission of applications and required documents to the CPA Administration Office (Saipan) or at the Tinian International Airport or Benjamin Taisacan Manglona International Airport is no later than 5:00 P.M. on Friday, **November 17, 2023.**

Detailed information on qualifications and position descriptions for the above positions may be picked up along with the application form from Monday-Friday, 8:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M., except on holidays, at the CPA Administration Office (2nd Floor) of the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, Arrival Terminal or CPA Admin, Office at the Tinian International Airport or at the Benjamin Taisacan Manglona International Airport. For additional information, please contact the CPA Human Resources Office by email at lorna.robert@cnmiports.com and hrspecialist@cnmiports.com or by phone at (670)237-6500.

CPA is an Equal Opportunity Employer and CPA hires those who are legally entitled to employment in the CNMI.

WENDI PRATER
Acting Executive Director

NMC to host free info session on Nov. 14

Community members interested in pursuing higher education are invited to attend Northern Marianas College's free information session tomorrow, Nov. 14, 2023, regarding the upcoming spring 2024 semester

The info session will be held at the American Memorial Park Amphitheatre in Garapan, with doors opening at 5:30pm for registration. The session will cover topics that include financial aid options and the admissions process.

Participants of the info session will qualify to have their application and placement test fees waived for NMC's upcoming spring 2024 semester—a savings of about $75.

Incoming students who have attended a Start Smart Seminar, Cash for College, or Climb Higher Seminar in the past year can avail of having their application and placement test fees waived for the spring 2024 semester.

NMC offers several degree and certificate programs, including a Bachelor of Science in Education (Concentration in Early Childhood Education, Elementary Education, Rehabilitation and Human Services, or Special Education), Bachelor of Science in Business Management (Concentration in Accounting or without Concentration); Associate of Arts in Business, Associate of Applied Science in Business Administration (Emphasis in Accounting, Business Management, or Computer Applications), Associate of Applied Science in Hospitality Management, Associate of Arts in Liberal Arts (Emphasis in Education, Health and Physical Education, Pre-Engineering, Social Work, or without Emphasis), Associate of Science in Nursing, Associate of Science in Agriculture, Associate of Science in Natural Resource Management, Associate of Applied Science in Criminal Justice, and Associate of Science in Fire Science Technology. The certificate programs at NMC include Basic Law Enforcement, Business Management, Computer Applications, Early Childhood Education, Fire Science Technology, Hospitality Operations, Nursing Assistant, and Small Business Management.

NMC's spring 2024 semester will begin on Jan. 16, 2024. A list of the classes that are offered can be found at www.marianas.edu. For additional information or inquiries, contact the Office of Admissions and Records at 237-6769/70/71/72 or email oar@marianas.edu. ***(NMC)***

NMC

From page 1

laje campus on Saipan, after which they were given a tour of the center, which boasts high-quality patient manikins in a simulated hospital room, equipped with a control room for the instructor.

In her remarks, Rosa Tudela, who chairs the Nursing Department at NMC, said this new center would transform the way they train their nurses and healthcare students.

"The NMC Health Simulation Center will help to ensure that our students are well-prepared to deliver high-quality care and respond effectively to the healthcare needs of our communities," she added.

More than just a building, it's a testament to the power of collaboration with the Hawaii Pacific Basin Area Health Education Center, said Erica Davis, MSNP, deputy director with the Hawaii Pacific Basin Area Health Education Center.

She said their partnership in this project exemplifies their commitment in the advancement of healthcare and education training, particularly in remote islands.

She thanked the NMC team for working many hours to make the transformation possible, from what the room was, which was a storage room, into the center it is today.

"The impact of your support will be felt in years to come as it empowers the next generation of healthcare professionals," she said.

PROPST

From page 1

"And we're doing that in working together with this administration," said Propst in his comments about raising taxes during a House of Representatives session yesterday.

Propst, who is the House floor leader, said they want to ensure that they don't finish in the red again after many years in a row of the government in deficit.

"We can't do that anymore. Constitutionally we can't do that," said Propst, adding that the government will also need to figure out the best way to ensure that they cover a $9-million shortfall in the budget for the government's operations for fiscal year 2024.

Reacting to a newspaper headline last week that higher taxes mean higher prices, he said what people have been seeing for quite some time now is inflation on all commodities—on all goods. "Nothing spared. That goes from Pampers and maybe [infant] formula all the way up to beer and soda," he said.

Propst expressed surprise at what he described as "numerous attacks" House members received for raising "a few taxes here and there." Yet, every Saturday when he goes shopping with his wife, he has noticed that there has been an increase of prices in basic goods from one week to the very next.

"So, it's almost shocking when we are being attacked for the very small increase that we are making on container beverages that normally have been increased for many, many years. And no one's really gone out and gone crazy over it," Propst said.

Last week, the House passed two bills filed by Rep. Marissa Renee Flores (Ind-Saipan) that essentially raised the tax on soda beverages and the marriage license fees.

Propst said the mere fact that they're going to ask for a 10-cent increase per can of soda or beer and certain people are screaming about it is shocking, because those prices have gone up dramatically.

"I don't know if you remember but just a few years ago, what we were paying for a case of beer versus today. And that wasn't caused by those container taxes or anything," he said.

Propst said the only reason why they agreed to do that was that they had a $9-million shortfall that they all discussed as one and that they did not want to create any more hardship on government employees by cutting more work hours.

That was the agreement they made that in order to move forward, Propst said. To implement a more than 10-hour cut would be very hurtful to many families, especially those who are barely making ends meet, he added.

Propst pointed out that this specific tax didn't increase the cost of canned meat or goods or any other basic commodities. "We didn't want to do that. But yet inflation has," he said.

He said the tax hike was intended to just address the $9-million shortfall in the budget and if somebody has a better idea as to how they can come up with $9 million to fund the government that is struggling right now, then let them know.

"Some of these taxes are [going to] hurt a little bit. They're [going to] sting a little bit. But I've continued to say this, what is the alternative?" he asked.

When they were talking about raising the business gross revenue taxes, businesses were up in arms, Propst said, complaining that they've suffered enough through COVID-19 and many of them said they were not one of the fortunate ones that got BOOSTED.

The lawmaker pointed out that the BGRT hasn't been increased for decades.

"And we didn't do it. We didn't put any sales taxes because that basically would just increase the price of all goods. We've been selective," he said.

Propst asked those who continue to criticize them to give them the alternative.

"And if you're the one of the persons that's telling me, well, let's cut the government by 20%. Do we start with you in that cut? Do we start with your job? Because the way that we like to say is that no one should be just expendable. No one should just be thrown away like that. Everybody has bills to pay," he said.

Propst said he will never forget why the CNMI is in this predicament right now. "Some are trying to brainwash people into saying that are you better off now? No. Because we are actually trying to take care of business," he said.

BOE

From page 1

and enter into negotiation in regard to the commissioner of education contract," said BOE chair Antonio L. Borja said in a statement yesterday.

The BOE is the policy and governing body of the Public School System.

Camacho is the current dean of Enrollment Management and Student Success, and dean of Student/Classroom Experience at the University of Guam.

Camacho obtained his doctoral in educational leadership and management from Drexel University. He earned his Master of Arts in higher education administration at the University of Louisville, Master of Military Arts and Science in Military History at the U.S. Army Command and General Staff College, and Master of Arts in Leadership and Liberal Studies at the Duquesne University.

He received his Bachelor of Science in public administration from the University of Guam.

Unequal commitment

Borja praised Flores for her "unparalleled and unprecedented commitment to our PSS family."

"Director Flores stepped up and showed steady and consistent leadership at a time when PSS is facing unprecedented challenges. I personally applaud her for working hard during this period and in the absence of a permanent commissioner of education," Borja said.

As director of PSS Special Education Program, she oversees the single largest program in the school district. The program accounts for about 11% of the overall student population, and its personnel represents 21% of PSS' total workforce.

Under Flores' tutelage, the PSS Special Education Program administers one of the school district's largest federal grants. The Individuals with Disabilities Education Act's Part B Formula Grants assist states and school districts in providing a free appropriate education in the least restrictive environment for children with disabilities, ages 3 through 21. ***(PSS)***

DIVER

From page 1

diver with the earliest dive time.

Finn Fraiche took the final plunge to certify just a little after six in the morning last Friday at the Grotto and completed his dive at 6:45am, breaking the dive time of the previous record-holders: India's Ovee Malve and Dwit A. Nandu. Nandu had broken the record at 10am, Aug. 24, 2023, and Malve on Oct. 11 at 7:18am. Fraiche completed his dive at 6:45am—quite a feat to try and overshadow with the Marianas' time zone. It was not immediately learned if Fraiche's feat will be submitted to the *Guinness Book of World Records* in order to be considered a certified record-breaker.

This Isla Montessori student explained that he had developed an interest for diving and a love for the water at the young age of 7. His favorite thing about diving is getting to see all the underwater life and breathe underwater.

"I love that it's super clear and it's really blue; it's super beautiful. When you're down there there's all of these beautiful coral [reefs]. My favorite thing about diving is all the beautiful things you can see and that you can breathe underwater," he said. "When I was underwater in the pool for the first time it brought tears to my eyes because I've always wanted to breathe underwater, it's always been my dream. "

Just before his 10th birthday, he decided he wanted to become the youngest PADI-certified diver.

His parents, Laura Webb and Geoff Fraiche, had both been certified divers since they were teenagers, but never as young as their son. "It's been an amazing experience to watch him learn all these things…" said Webb.

Both parents said they couldn't have done it without Finn's instructor, Jay Wolfe from Axe Murderers Marianas.

"[It's] just amazing to watch your child have a teacher and mentor like Jay that you can trust and to see how much they learned and how far he's come in just a short amount of time," said Webb.

The process to get PADI certified wasn't a walk in the park. Wolfe said that Finn Fraiche had to complete the set lesson plans digital or print, pass a knowledge review, and then pass the actual exam, followed by a combined water session training, from confined water sessions and then four open dives using skills needed to dive safely.

"At the end of the fourth dive you'll be certified as a junior open water diver," said Wolfe.

He said that Finn Fraiche has really good diving skills, especially considering his age, "so we're very proud of him."

Finn Fraiche's dream doesn't stop there. The next places he wants to dive at is Banzai Cliff and the Dimple site. "Part of my goal is to be the world's youngest diver in all of the courses and also be the world's oldest diver," said the young man.

Docomo Pacific donates $5K to Red Cross

Docomo Pacific has donated $5,000 to support the upcoming 1980's fundraising dinner of the American Red Cross-NMI Chapter.

The donation will be used locally to support the NMI Chapter's programs, including disaster preparedness, response and recovery efforts as well as emergency messaging for military families.

"Docomo is a trusted communications partner of the Red Cross here in the CNMI and Guam," said Juan Diego Tenorio, disaster program manager. "During disasters we heavily rely on a solid communications infrastructure and thankful to Docomo for all their support."

The American Red Cross-NMI Chapter will host a 1980's themed fundraising dinner on Nov. 18 at Kensington Hotel Saipan. The evening will feature dinner, drinks, live entertainment, door prizes, and costume contest.

For more information about the Red Cross and how you can help, visit www.redcross.org/nmi or the dinner event page at www.redcross.org/nmigala. ***(PR)***

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Docomo Pacific donates $5,000 to support the upcoming 1980's fundraising dinner of the American Red Cross-NMI Chapter.

BRIDGE CAPITAL, LLC
Date: Nov. 8, 2023
PAY TO THE ORDER OF AMERICAN RED CROSS - NMI CHAPTER
$ 2,500.00
TWO THOUSAND FIVE HUNDRED AND 00/100 DOLLARS
MEMO 2023 Red Cross 1980's Dinner
BRIDGE CAPITAL, LLC

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

From left, Brent Deleon Guerrero, Juan Diego Tenorio, Joshua Wise, Bridge Capital LLC vice president Bart Jackson, Patty Palacios, John Hirsh, and Selmalyn Taitano.

Bridge Capital donates to Red Cross fundraiser

Bridge Capital LLC provided $2,500 in support for the American Red Cross 1980's fundraising dinner, making it a "Boom Box" donor of the NMI Gala.

"Bridge has been an annual supporter of the Red Cross for the past 16 years. We are grateful to John Baldwin, Shawn Scott, and Bart Jackson and the entire team at Bridge Capital for helping our organization serve the people of the CNMI," said John Hirsh, executive director of the NMI Red Cross.

The Red Cross will host a 1980's themed dinner on Nov. 18 at Kensington Hotel Saipan. The evening will feature dinner, drinks, live entertainment, door prizes and costume contest.

For more information about the Red Cross and how you can help, visit www.redcross.org/nmi or the dinner event page at www.redcross.org/nmigala. ***(PR)***

Veterans Day Ceremony 2023

KIMBERLY B. ESMORES

Gov. Arnold I. Palacios, left, and Lt. Gov. David Apatang, right, pose for a photo following the laying of the wreath portion of the 2023 Veteran's Day observance ceremony last Saturday at the American Memorial Park.

KIMBERLY B. ESMORES

CNMI dignitaries, special guests, veterans, family members, and members of the public attend the 2023 Veterans Day ceremony last Saturday at the American Memorial Park.

Mariana High School JROTC cadets post the U.S. and CNMI flags during the 2023 Veterans Day ceremony last Saturday at the American Memorial Park.

Office s of USS *Shoup* participate in the CNMI's 2023 Veterans Day ceremony last Saturday at the American Memorial Park.

KIMBERLY B. ESMORES

Gov. Arnold I. Palacios and Lt. Gov. David Apatang are joined by CNMI students during the laying of the wreath portion of the 2023 Veterans Day ceremony last Saturday at the American Memorial Park.

KIMBERLY B. ESMORES

CNMI dignitaries, special guests, veterans, family members, and members of the public take a moment to honor those who served and lost their lives serving their country during the 2023 Veterans Day ceremony last Saturday at the American Memorial Park.

Australia offers to help Tuvalu escape rising seas, other ravages of climate change

AP

Pacific leade s pose for a group photograph on One Foot Island after attending the Leaders' Retreat during the Pacific Islands orum at Aitutaki, Cook Islands, Thursday, Nov. 9, 2023.

WELLINGTON, New Zealand (AP)—Australia on Friday offered the island nation of Tuvalu a lifeline to help residents escape the rising seas and increased storms brought by climate change.

At a meeting of Pacific leaders in the Cook Islands, Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese announced a plan that will initially allow up to 280 Tuvaluans to come to Australia each year. Tuvalu has a population of 11,000, and its low-lying atolls make it particularly vulnerable to global warming.

"We believe the people of Tuvalu deserve the choice to live, study and work elsewhere, as climate change impacts worsen," Albanese said. "Australia has committed to provide a special pathway for citizens of Tuvalu to come to Australia, with access to Australian services that will enable human mobility with dignity."

Albanese described the new agreement as groundbreaking, and said the day would be remembered as significant, marking an acknowledgment that Australia was part of the Pacific family.

AP

Australia's Prime Minister Anthony Albanese, left, and Tuvalu's Prime Minister Kausea shake hands on One Foot Island after attending the Leaders' Retreat during the Pacific Islands Forum in Aitutaki, Cook Islands, Thursday, Nov. 9, 2023.

He said the bilateral partnership between the two countries came at the request of Tuvalu. It is called the Falepili Union, he said, and is based on the Tuvaluan word for the traditional values of good neighborliness, care and mutual respect.

Details including the time frame were not yet available. The agreement would take effect after it moves through the countries' respective domestic processes.

Tuvalu Prime Minister Kausea Natano said the new arrangement respected both nations' sovereignty and committed each country to supporting the other through such challenges as climate change.

"I wish to express my heartfelt appreciation for the unwavering commitment that our friends from Australia have demonstrated," Natano said. "This partnership stands as a beacon of hope, signifying not just a milestone but a giant leap forward in our joint mission to ensure regional stability, sustainability and prosperity."

NASA's Sea Level Change Team this year assessed that much of Tuvalu's land and critical infrastructure would sit below the level of the current high tide by 2050. The team found that by the end of the century, Tuvalu would be experiencing more than 100 days of flooding each year.

"Sea level impacts beyond flooding—like saltwater intrusion—will become more frequent and continue to worsen in severity in the coming decades," the team's report found.

If all Tuvaluans decided to take up Australia on its offer—and if Australia kept its cap at 280 migrants per year—it would take about 40 years for Tuvalu's entire population to relocate to Australia.

Albanese said Australia would also add more funding to Tuvalu's Coastal Adaptation Project, which aims to expand land around the main island of Funafuti by about 6% to help try and keep Tuvaluans on their homeland.

Asked by reporters if Australia would consider similar treaties with other Pacific nations, Albanese said the Tuvalu announcement was big enough for one day, and emphasized again it came at Tuvalu's request.

"This reflects Tuvalu's special circumstances as a low-lying nation that's particularly impacted, its very existence, by the threat of climate change," Albanese said.

Albanese's announcement came after Pacific leaders met for a retreat on the beautiful island of Aitutaki, which marked the culmination of meetings at the Pacific Islands Forum.

Gov't ministers in Vanuatu call for parliament's dissolution, media says

AP

President of Vanuatu Nikenike Vurobaravu addresses the 77th session of the United Nations General Assembly, Sept. 23, 2022, at the U.N. headquarters.

TOKYO (AP)—Government ministers in the Pacific nation of Vanuatu are asking the president to dissolve parliament, adding to political disarray after lawmakers introduced a no-confidence against the prime minister, local media said Saturday.

National elections would be held if President Nikenike Vurobaravu, the largely ceremonial head of state, dissolved the parliament and the government headed by Prime Minister Charlot Salwai.

Vanuatu, which gained independence in 1980, has had three prime ministers since August and Salwai would be removed if legislators adopted the no-confidence motion filed earlier in the week. The stability of the government is increasingly important as China and the United States jockey for influence in the region.

Salwai met with Vurobaravu on Friday after the Council of Ministers, which is appointed by the prime minister, recommended parliament's dissolution, the Vanuatu Daily Post reported Saturday. Officials said the president was considering the request and would make a decision next week, the paper said

The ministers said a new government would give the country a better chance to recover from recent cyclones and economic struggles, the newpaper said.

A request for comment from the Vanuatu parliament office wasn't immediately answered.

The U.S. said earlier this year that it will open an embassy in Vanuatu's capital, Port Vila. It will be the fifth diplomatic mission that the U.S. has either opened or announced in the region over the past three years as it seeks to confront what it sees as a challenge from China.

A low-lying island nation of some 300,000 people, Vanuatu last year declared a climate emergency as it moved dozens of villages to higher ground.

South Pacific leaders will meet on Aitutaki to discuss climate change

WELLINGTON, New Zealand (AP)—South Pacific leaders are heading to the stunning beautiful island of Aitutaki to discuss climate change and other regional concerns.

Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese was among the leaders who traveled to the Cook Islands this week for the annual Pacific Islands Forum. The forum culminates in a leaders' retreat Friday on Aitutaki, renowned for its picturesque lagoon.

Among other Pacific concerns is the release of treated radioactive wastewater from a nuclear power plant in Japan that was crippled by a 2011 tsunami.

Albanese told reporters that Australia had gotten a positive reception in a region where climate change looms as an existential threat for many low-lying islands.

"There's a recognition that my government is committed to climate action and that we're playing a positive role, not just with our commitment to reduce our emissions by 43% by 2030 and to reach net zero by 2050, but that, importantly, we are playing a role in the region, and indeed, around the globe," Albanese said.

AP

Australia's Prime Minister Anthony Albanese arrives for the Pacific Islands Forum in Rarotonga, Cook Islands, Tuesday, Nov. 7, 2023.

AP

Lounging chairs wait for visitors on the beach at Aitutaki Lagoon Resort & Spa in Aitutaki, Cook Islands, June 2006. A group of South Pacific leaders was due to travel to the beautiful island of Aitutaki on Thursday, Nov. 9, 2023, ahead of a meeting to discuss climate change and other regional concerns.

Albanese's predecessor Scott Morrison was criticized for dragging his feet on climate change while championing Australia's lucrative coal and gas exports.

Henry Puna, the secretary general of the forum, said the key to success in the Pacific was to show solidarity in order to capitalize on opportunities and overcome complexities.

"I am proud of the hard work and items before you today covering climate change, gender, fisheries, nuclear issues, and trade, among others," Puna told forum attendees. "I wish you well in your deliberations, both today and tomorrow."

New Zealand did not send its leader to the forum as it remains in transition between governments following an October election. Instead, it sent one lawmaker from the outgoing government and another from the incoming government.

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
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EDITORIAL

It's time for a humanitarian pause to the violence in Gaza

It has been more than a month since the attack on Israel that killed more than 1,400 people, according to Israeli officials. In responding to that atrocity, Israel has relentlessly bombarded Gaza and launched a ground operation with the objectives of destroying Hamas and rescuing hostages. The result has been a humanitarian catastrophe with more than 10,000 people in Gaza killed, according to the Hamas-run Health Ministry, and massive displacement and destruction.

It is time that Israel heeded calls from the United States and other nations for a humanitarian pause in its attacks to allow for expanded efforts to relieve some of the misery. There are signs that some respite may be in the works, but pauses in violence need to be long and frequent enough to deliver meaningful assistance to civilians in Gaza.

On Thursday, President Joe Biden confirmed that he had asked for a pause in Israeli attacks, one that would last "a lot more than three days." Biden's comment came a day after diplomats at a Group of 7 meeting in Tokyo issued a statement—crafted in part by Secretary of State Antony J. Blinken—calling for "humanitarian pauses and corridors to facilitate urgently needed assistance, civilian movement and the release of hostages." The statement called on all parties to the conflict to allow "unimpeded humanitarian support for civilians, including food, water, medical care, fuel and shelter, and access for humanitarian workers."

Congress also is getting involved. On Wednesday, 24 Democratic U.S. senators, including California's Laphonza Butler, and two independents, Angus King of Maine and Bernie Sanders of Vermont, who caucus with the Democrats, sent a letter to Biden. Even as the senators expressed support for new aid to Israel to help it replenish its defenses, they asked for "information relative to these two clear U.S. priorities: supporting an Israeli strategy that will effectively degrade and defeat the threat from Hamas and taking all possible measures to protect civilians in Gaza."

The letter also asked Biden to "inform us about what specific mechanisms you are putting in place to ensure that Israeli military operations conducted inside Gaza are carried out in accordance with international humanitarian law and to ensure that any U.S.-provided equipment is used in a manner consistent with U.S. law."

These are legitimate questions, and Biden should respond to them. But the immediate priority is to address the dire civilian toll of this conflict. Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said on Monday that Israel might be open to " little pauses" in its campaign against Hamas. On Thursday, the White House indicated that Israel would engage in daily four-hour pauses of military operations in parts of northern Gaza.

There are also reports that a three-day "humanitarian pause" might be part of an agreement for the release of some hostages held by Hamas. Progress on hostage release would be welcome, but it shouldn't be a precondition for a meaningful humanitarian pause. Civilians in Gaza are suffering, and they need a lifeline.

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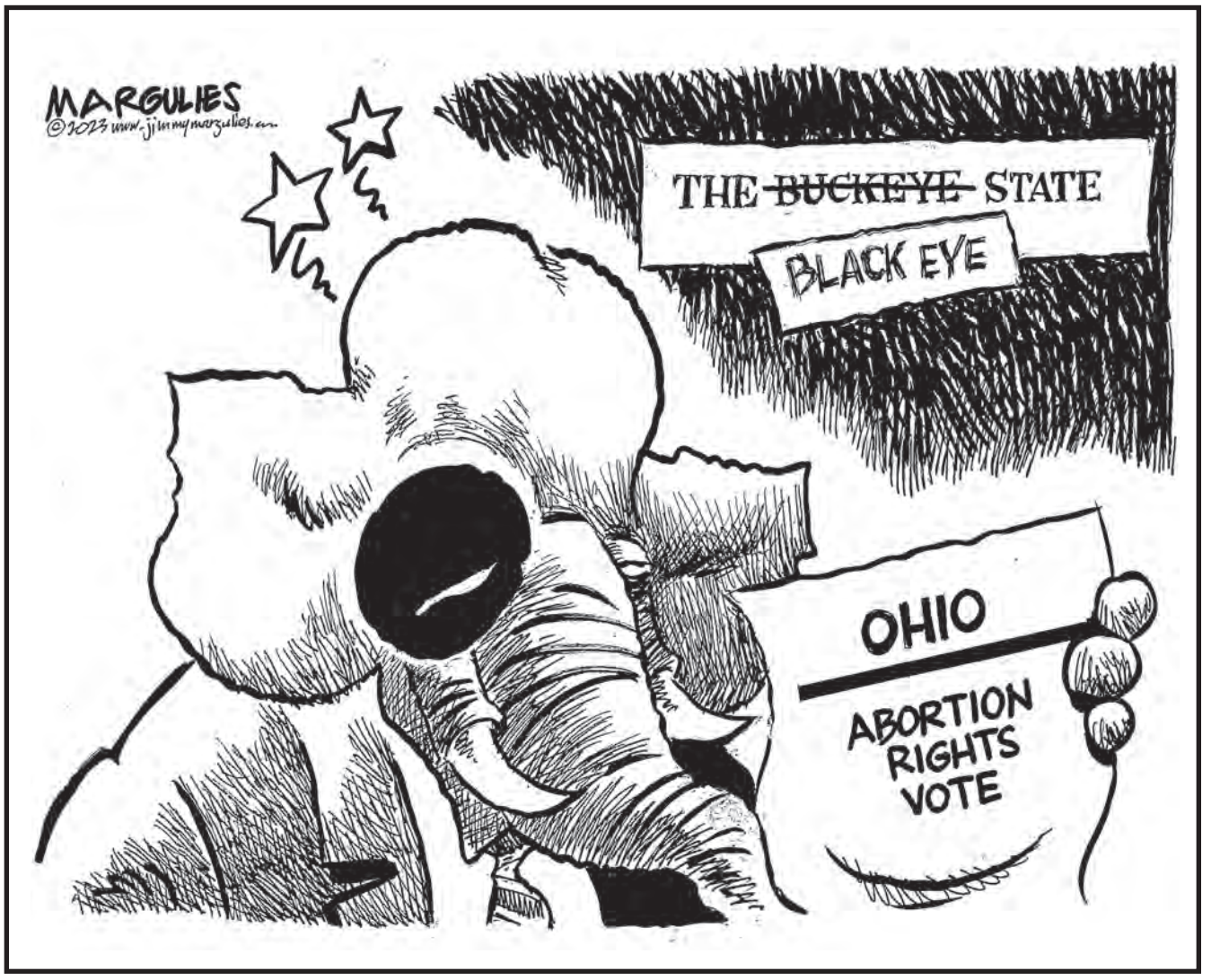


What the actors' union victory means for your wallet

By PAUL HARDART
Bloomberg Opinion

Paul Hardart is director of the entertainment, media & technology program at NYU's Stern School of Business and founding director of the Graduate Program in Media Management at The New School. He was previously an executive at Universal and Warner Brothers.

SAG-AFTRA finally ended the 118-day actors' strike after negotiating a tentative three-year agreement with the Hollywood studios. This marked the longest strike in the guild's history, securing significant improvements in pay, benefits and pensions and preliminary guardrails around AI use.

Across the country, members of SAG-AFTRA celebrated their long-fought and well-deserved victory. Kevin Bacon commemorated the strike's end by reprising his Footloose dance in the attic of an empty barn.

But just as the actors begin to put away their picket signs and return to soundstages and movie sets, the curtain is already rising on new challenges for everyone in Hollywood: less content and fewer jobs.

Both of these problems will be exacerbated by the value of the new deal. According to a statement from the union, it's $1 billion. Ultimately, customers will be left footing the bill—via those frequent subscription fee increases—without getting more for it. Even before the summer of strikes, Hollywood faced significant business headwinds, with streaming services aggressively raising their prices while opting to spend less on films and shows.

And just this past week, Bob Iger announced that Disney would be targeting cost savings of nearly $7.5 billion and would be reducing its content spending by approximately 20% from two years ago. Concurrently, Disney is also raising its prices for Disney+, Hulu and ESPN+. Similarly, Netflix, Max, Peacock, AppleTV+, and Paramount+ have also all raised their prices an average of about 23% over the past few months. As Scott Purdy of KPMG declared, the era of "streamflation is here."

Why the sudden shift to price increases and cost management?

Wall Street no longer values these companies on the rosy vision of endless growth and promise. Instead, the new metric is how profitable the service is right now. And in this arena, the move to streaming has proven challenging. Over the past year, these companies have seen a significant degradation in their valuations, and, in some cases like Disney, activist investors have called for change.

Writ large, the entertainment landscape is encountering Clay Christensen's famous Innovator's Dilemma in real time. In which a disruptive technology (streaming) challenges the incumbent business (cable, broadcast and theatrical) to either adapt or face extinction. For the last several years, the legacy studios have chased the alluring valuation multiples that Netflix once enjoyed by launching their own services—only to realize those valuations were a mirage. The studios now have to make their streaming efforts turn a profit, and that means managing costs, cracking down on shared passwords and, as the guilds are well aware, controlling how much is spent on production.

As a result of SAG-AFTRA's new deal, the actors and writers will be paid more for their work and have greater upside. The challenge is that there will likely be less work to go around and thus more competition for fewer roles. It is probably not a stretch that in the coming years, the membership of SAG-AFTRA may decrease in some proportion to the decrease in studio spending.

The drawbacks don't render the union's victory Pyrrhic. But in all the celebrations, sooner or later, we will have to note that it's not perfect.

That said, the demand for entertainment is not going away. Stories, information and music are how humans have made sense of the world since the dawn of time. When I ask my students what they derive from watching a movie or a TV show, it is quite moving to hear them express the benefits. They'll say things such as to "make me smile," "escape," "inspire me," or, as one shy student quietly put it, "to feel the feels."

The benefits we get from entertainment can sometimes transcend words, and that value is uncorrelated to the costs. Stories are as rudimentary to our lives as air, water and food. As new technologies and entertainment formats come into focus, the role of the actor and writer may continue to evolve. Through this deal and their resolute solidarity, SAG-AFTRA has laid the groundwork for how future negotiations can be framed. They have also memorialized the importance of actors to the ecosystem of the business of Hollywood.

In watching Kevin Bacon's celebratory video, I reflexively smiled. While I can't pinpoint the exact reason, it might just be that it made me "feel the feels." That kind of experience is something for which I, along with most consumers, will probably be willing to pay a little extra.

The effort at the American Cemetery

By DON A. FARRELL
SPECIAL TO THE SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Editor's Note: The following is the text of the remarks the author made at the Veterans Day ceremony on Tinian last week.

Good morning everyone on this lovely Veterans Day on Tinian, especially to acting mayor Ann Marie San Nicolas, my former student.

Many of you will remember that on Memorial Day, May 31, 2021, Mayor Edwin P. Aldan sponsored a special event to congratulate the men of the 7th USMC Engineer Support Battalion's Charlie Company for installing a memorial plaque to honor the men from the 8th Marine Regiment and the 18th Naval Construction Battalion who were killed or wounded during the Last Battle for Tinian at Kastiyu Plateau on Aug. 1, 1944, the day Tinian was declared secure.

The men who died at Kastiyu Plateau were subsequently buried at the American Cemetery, just south of the Tinian invasion beaches, one of the 20 sites within the Tinian, North Field, National Historic Landmark.

The first men buried at the American Cemetery were from the 2nd and 4th Marine Divisions and the 18th and 121st Naval Construction Battalions who died during the battle for Tinian.

As the war progressed, Seabees who died while constructing the roads and runways on Tinian, from wounds inflicted by Japanese stragglers, as well as Marines from the 8th Regiment, 2nd Marine Division, who died from wounds received while "mopping up" those stragglers, were buried there.

When the air war against Japan commenced from North Field and West Field, airmen who died when their planes crashed on take-off, or died during air combat operations, or died if they crashlanded back on Tinian, were buried at the American Cemetery.

Finally, Marines and soldiers who were wounded during the battles for Iwo Jima and Okinawa and evacuated to the 374th Army Hospital on Mt. Lasso, and subsequently died from their wounds, were buried at the Tinian American Cemetery.

In 1947, the bodies of 627 American servicemen who had died on Tinian during World War II and were buried in the American Cemetery were exhumed and their bodies shipped to their next of kin or to the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific at the Punchbowl, Oahu, Hawai'i. Since then, the Tinian American Cemetery has been overgrown by tangan-tangan and the typical jungle vines, hidden from the view.

This year, a small group of volunteers decided to begin clearing the World War II American Cemetery with the hope of having this year's Veterans Day ceremony held there. Demonstrating his support for the project, Mayor of Tinian Edwin Aldan filed the paperwork for a One-Start permit that would allow the team to use a small payloader to clear tangan-tangan stumps from the proposed ceremony site, after the hand clearing was completed.

First into the field, searching for the American Cemetery, was Master Sgt. Dolores Kiyoshi, retired. She located the wall that gave us the location of the original entry road.

The volunteer group that followed up on Sgt. Kiyoshi's discovery was led by Tinian archaeologist Dave Perzinski and his multi-talented companion, Skip Hall, with advice from veteran Tinian archeologist Dr. Boyd Dixon, who is with us today.

Other volunteers came from the 7th Engineer Support Battalion, Alpha Company, CTF Platoon, now known as the Tinian Marines, led by Sgt Aidan Graham, and his men:

- Cpl. Brock Boucher,
- Cpl. Tyler Boden,
- Cpl. Benjamin Runck,
- Cpl. Marcos Munoz,
- Cpl. Bryan Verduzcoarmenta,
- Lance Cpl. Jonathan Atwood,
- LCpl. Justin Sledge,
- LCpl. Anthony Colon,
- LCpl. Tristin Gibbins,
- LCpl. Isaias Gonzalez,
- LCpl. Axel Lemoine Munch,
- LCpl. Orlando Morales, and
- LCpl. Marco Palomo,

From the Tinian ROTC Stallion Battalion came volunteers: battalion commander C/LTC Edward Tirona, the battalion XO, C/MAJ Lenteja, C/Cpl. LeTrisha Palacios, C/Cpl. Serenity Guzman, and Paolo Roldan, guided by ROTC instructors Capt. Joseph Santos and 1st Sgt. Jose King.

I would also thank Naomi Brandenfels from the Navy on Guam who also lent us her support.

Unfortunately, although the hand clearing was completed on time, the One-Start permit requested by Mayor Aldan was not issued. Therefore, the project could not be completed in time for today's event. However, the work of these volunteers will not have been in vain. Mayor Aldan is committed to holding the event at the American Cemetery next Memorial Day, if the One-Start permit is issued.

Working in the field has been a learning experience for everyone involved. We have learned the Japanese War Dead Cemetery is only a couple hundred yards south of the American Cemetery. Although they must be treated separately and cleared separately, many of us believe that having a joint ceremony for both the American and Japanese war dead—at some time in the future—is appropriate and will bring visitors from not only from the United States but also Japan to pay their respects to all those who made the ultimate sacrifice for their country – particularly since the U.S.-Japanese Alliance is more important now than ever.

Lastly, one of the biggest problems we had in clearing the American Cemetery site was dodging the potholes on 86th Street on the way to and from the site. This problem has been resolved. It is my honor to thank Capt. Matthew C. Jacobs, USAF, OIC, Expeditionary Red Horse squadron, now stationed on Tinian. Capt. Jacobs and his team have already patched the potholes on 86th Street, making it not only safer and easier for employees at the U.S. Agency for Global Media to drive back and forth to work, but also for tourists who wish to visit North Field, Tinian, including a stop at the American Cemetery. We look forward to their upcoming effort to resurface the runways at North Field, as well as the paved roads on the military leased lands. Good news for Tinian.

Thank you to Mayor Aldan for the opportunity to inform the public about our joint effort to re-open the American Cemetery, a very Happy Veterans Day to everyone, and I hope to see you all at the American Cemetery next Memorial Day.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

From left, Tinian ROTC battalion commander C/LTC Edward Tirona; Sgt. Aidan Graham, USMC; Don Farrell; acting mayor of Tinian Ann Marie San Nicolas; Cpl. Brock Boucher, USMC; Cpl. Tyler Boden, USMC; and Captain Matthew Jacobs, USAF, OIC, Expeditionary Red Horse squadron.

Israel's war will expand surveillance

By ANIKA COLLIER NAVAROLI

Anika Collier Navaroli is currently a senior fellow at the Tow Center for Digital Journalism at Columbia University and a Public Voices Fellow on Technology in the Public Interest with The OpEd Project in partnership with The MacArthur Foundation

Just weeks after Israel declared war on Hamas, the conflict has moved beyond Gaza and begun to envelop the Middle East. The United Nations Security Council has remained divided and failed to pass resolutions that would protect millions of civilians and call for the immediate release of hundreds of Israeli hostages. The United States continues to resist calls for a cease-fire and vetoed a resolution condemning violence and urging vital humanitarian aid.

As a science fiction buff and tech policy expert, the events unfolding in Israel-Palestine make me think of George Orwell's canonical novel, "1984." Big Brother is described in the book as a dystopian, omniscient, massive surveillance state. Historically, when war or conflict happens, marginalized populations undergo Big Brother-level surveillance.

Decades before Hamas' attack on Oct. 7, the Israel-Palestine conflict that began in 1948 led to millions of Palestinian people living in Gaza under a concerning level of surveillance. Human rights advocates likened their treatment to apartheid and their living conditions to an open-air prison. Nearly half of the Palestinians who lived in the Gaza Strip were unemployed. Their movements were limited by check-points and their biometrics were monitored through facial recognition technology by a nation with surveillance capabilities so extensive it's known for creating the world's most powerful spy tool. Orwell's fiction became fact for Palestinians, and former Israeli Intelligence Corps workers even called themselves "Israeli Big Brother."

In America, these conditions are eerily familiar. Surveillance nets do not affect everyone evenly, and just as the Palestinian people have borne the brunt of Israel's Big Brother-like system, surveillance is often first targeted at the marginalized. University of Texas Professor Simone Browne's scholarship traced the creation of the first extensive American surveillance system to anti-Black racism and slavery. Those philosophies have continued to contribute to the creation of new technologies used by the American government today to surveil descendants of the enslaved in their homes and during protests for their rights.

After Sept. 11, another massive surveillance state was created in the United States. When the war on terror was declared, America rushed to pass the Patriot Act, which issued unprecedented surveillance powers for the government to seize personal information like phone and bank records. With Islamophobia becoming rampant around the world, in America, Muslim communities were targeted by the new laws. They were stripped of their privacy rights and surveilled relentlessly by the government in their places of worship and while traveling. Twenty years later, the impact of this spying was still felt as Muslim Americans fought in the Supreme Court to regain their rights.

To be sure, marginalized communities are not the only ones who undergo surveillance after wars or major conflicts. In fact, the laws and technologies of surveillance systems that are first tested on marginalized communities eventually become mainstream. Once perfected, they spread to impact all of society. The cell-site simulator devices now used by local police were first deployed during the war on terror and Black Lives Matter protests, the data dragnets created by the National Security Agency revealed by Edward Snowden, and the multi-agency intelligence gathering centers developed after the Patriot Act are all prime examples.

Like Orwell's "1984" warned, the war in Israel-Palestine may be the beginning of a never-ending global conflict where leaders once again use military cover to establish lavish surveillance states in their own backyards. Former President Donald Trump has already taken the opportunity to use this crisis to call for additional surveillance of people within the United States if he were to win the 2024 election by reinstating his notorious Muslim ban. More recently, police in London have warned that they will increase the use of social media and facial recognition technologies at protests calling for a ceasefire from Israel.

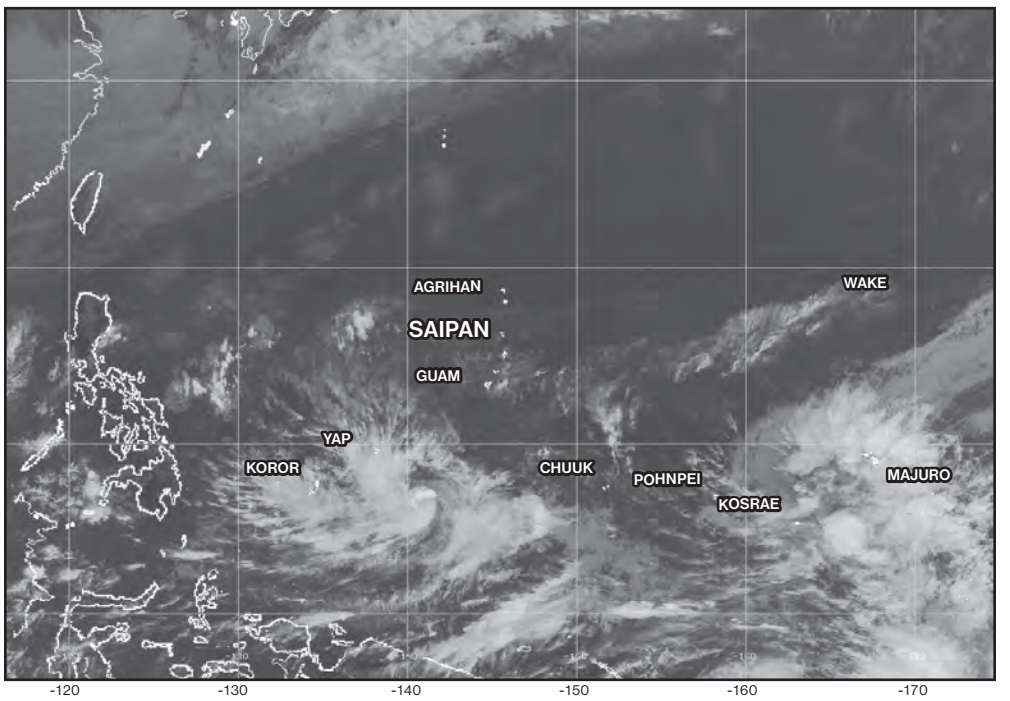
And much like Apple's famous Macintosh commercial inspired by Orwell's "1984," we need to wake up and halt the march toward global war that creates dystopian authoritarian surveillance states.

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Partly cloudy with isolated showers and thunderstorms. East winds 10 to 20 mph.	Mostly cloudy with scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms.	Mostly cloudy with a 50 percent chance of showers and a slight chance of thunderstorms.	Mostly cloudy with a 50 percent chance of showers and a slight chance of thunderstorms.	Mostly cloudy with showers likely and a slight chance of thunderstorms.
88 / 78°	88 / 78°	87 / 78°	87 / 78°	87 / 78°

YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



PICTURE TIME: 8:15 AM, MONDAY, NOVEMBER 13, 2023

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Satellite and radar imagery show isolated showers over the Marianas this morning. Easterly trade-winds were also over the local area.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: https://www.weather.gov/gum/

MICRONESIA		▲ ▼ °F
Guam and Rota	Thunderstorms	87° / 77°
Palau	Thunderstorms	88° / 78°
Yap	Partly Cloudy	87° / 80°
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	87° / 81°
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	85° / 77°
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	85° / 77°
Majuro	Partly Cloudy	86° / 81°

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	6:17 AM	5:44 PM
Wednesday	6:18 AM	5:44 PM
Thursday	6:18 AM	5:44 PM
Friday	6:19 AM	5:44 PM
Saturday	6:19 AM	5:44 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	6:47 AM	6:18 PM	-
Wednesday	7:47 AM	7:10 PM	-
Thursday	8:48 AM	8:08 PM	-
Friday	9:49 AM	9:10 PM	-
Saturday	10:48 AM	10:13 PM	-

AROUND THE GLOBE		▲ ▼ °F
Auckland	Cloudy	66° / 57°
Beijing	Sunny	46° / 23°
Hong Kong	Partly Cloudy	73° / 61°
Honolulu	Partly Cloudy	81° / 70°
London	Cloudy	57° / 54°
Los Angeles	Partly Cloudy	84° / 61°
Manila	Partly Cloudy	90° / 77°
Melbourne	Partly Cloudy	90° / 63°
Miami	Thunderstorms	80° / 69°
New York	Sunny	59° / 50°
Osaka	Rain	61° / 50°
Paris	Partly Cloudy	52° / 43°
Busan	Partly Cloudy	57° / 36°
Rome	Partly Cloudy	63° / 48°
Salem	Cloudy	64° / 48°
San Francisco	Partly Cloudy	68° / 54°
Seoul	Partly Cloudy	52° / 25°
Tokyo	Showers	55° / 46°
Washington, DC	Mostly Sunny	60° / 47°

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY		FEET
1:55 AM	Low Tide	-0.36
8:50 AM	High Tide	1.76
2:13 PM	Low Tide	1.04
7:14 PM	High Tide	1.76

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF OCTOBER 30, 2023

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA076	9:50AM	10:30AM	Daily

SAIPAN- NARITA (NRT)

UA824	7:05AM	9:45AM	1, 3, 5

GUAM-MANILA (MNL)

PR 111	5:55AM	7:55AM	Daily
UA193	7:50PM	11:50PM	2, 5 via Palau
UA183	7:55PM	9:50PM	Daily

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

7C3403/2305	4:40AM	10:20PM	Daily
UA076/183	9:50AM	9:50PM	Daily via Guam
UA076/193	9:50AM	11:50PM	2, 5 via Guam, Palau

SAIPAN-INCHEON (ICN)

TW308	2:15AM	6:10AM	Daily
7C3403	4:40AM	8:35AM	Daily
7C3405	4:35PM	8:25PM	Daily

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA174	8:00AM	8:45AM	Daily

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

UA825	9:25PM	2:00AM+1	2, 4, 7

MANILA (MNL)-GUAM

UA189	00:40AM	6:30AM	3, 6
PR110	10:05PM	3:55AM+1	Daily
UA192	10:40PM	6:30AM+1	2, 5 via Palau
UA184	10:55PM	4:45AM+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

UA189/174	00:40AM	8:45AM+1	3, 6 via Guam
UA192/174	10:40PM	8:45AM+1	2, 5 via Palau, Guam
UA184/174	10:55PM	8:45AM+1	1, 3, 4, 6,7 via Guam
7C2306/3406	11:15PM	3:30PM+1	Daily

INCHEON (ICN)-SAIPAN

7C3406	10:10AM	3:30PM	Daily
TW307	7:45PM	1:15AM+1	Daily
7C3404	10:15PM	3:35AM+1	Daily

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); UA United Airlines; PR, Philippine Airlines; TW, T'Way Air; OZ, Asiana Airlines; 7C, Jeju Air; BX, Air Busan • ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF OCTOBER 30, 2023

SAIPAN TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
1301	SAIPAN	ROTA	08:30	09:00	Oct 21-31, 2023
1302	SAIPAN	ROTA	10:30	11:00	Daily
1303	SAIPAN	ROTA	15:30	16:00	Daily

ROTA TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
3101	ROTA	SAIPAN	9:30	10:00	Oct 21-31, 2023
3102	ROTA	SAIPAN	11:30	12:00	Saturday & Sunday
3103	ROTA	SAIPAN	13:30	14:00	Monday To Friday
3104	ROTA	SAIPAN	16:30	17:00	Daily

ROTA TO GUAM

FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
3401	ROTA	GUAM	11:30	12:00	Monday To Friday

GUAM TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
4301	GUAM	ROTA	12:30	13:00	Monday To Friday

SAIPAN TO TINIAN

FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
1201	SAIPAN	TINIAN	7:30	7:45	Daily
1202	SAIPAN	TINIAN	8:00	8:15	Daily
1203	SAIPAN	TINIAN	9:00	9:15	Daily
1204	SAIPAN	TINIAN	10:00	10:15	Daily
1206	SAIPAN	TINIAN	15:00	15:15	Daily
1207	SAIPAN	TINIAN	16:00	16:15	Daily
1208	SAIPAN	TINIAN	17:00	17:15	Daily

TINIAN TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
2101	TINIAN	SAIPAN	8:00	8:15	Daily
2102	TINIAN	SAIPAN	8:30	8:45	Daily
2103	TINIAN	SAIPAN	9:30	9:45	Daily
2104	TINIAN	SAIPAN	10:30	10:45	Daily
2106	TINIAN	SAIPAN	15:30	15:45	Daily
2107	TINIAN	SAIPAN	16:30	16:45	Daily
2108	TINIAN	SAIPAN	17:30	17:45	Daily

Business

Parker Bake Sale morphs into The Cookie Shop

By MARK RABAGO
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com
EDITOR

MARK RABAGO

The Cookie Shop is located across the former Bank of Saipan branch and beside the Last Shot Bar and Aquarius Beach Tower along Beach Road in Chalan Kanoa.

MARK RABAGO

The Cookie Shop owner Deveanna Lizama Kileleman Parker-Jia started Parker Bake Sale as a fundraiser for to help stray dogs and unwanted puppy litters.

MARK RABAGO

The Cookie Shop offers an assortment of nine cookie flavors, three cake and cupcake flavors, a couple of cheesecakes, and the ever-popular pumpkin crunch.

Follow the crumbs to Chalan Kanoa as Parker Bake Sale is now a brick-and-mortar establishment named The Cookie Shop.

Owner Deveanna Lizama Kileleman Parker-Jia said she opened the aptly named The Cookie Shop only last Oct. 31 after her "tent business" slowly developed a cult following among cookie and dessert lovers on island.

"I've recently opened to start meeting demands for an accessible and convenient storefront for the variety of desserts I offer," she said.

The Cookie Shop is located across the former Bank of Saipan branch and beside the Last Shot Bar and Aquarius Beach Tower along Beach Road in Chalan Kanoa.

Parker-Jia's The Cookie Shop offers an assortment of nine cookie flavors. She also carries three cake and cupcake flavors, a couple of cheesecakes, and the ever-popular pumpkin crunch.

"Plans to expand my menu are underway to include a variety of brownies, ice cream sandwiches, and more cookie flavors."

As far as bestsellers go, Parker-Jia said her loyal customers just can't get enough of their New York Chocolate Chip cookies, Strawberry Oreo & Twix Crumble cookies, and the aforementioned pumpkin crunch.

What distinguishes Parker Bake Sale then and The Cookie Shop now are their cookies' uniqueness and that they cater to the local taste buds, according to Parker-Jia.

"My cookies are homemade recipes, made from scratch with each flavor having a non-traditional flavor added to it which makes them even more interesting and tasty. My cookies are also freshly baked and the added sugar is controlled. An overly sweetened cookie doesn't appeal to most compared to the amount of sugar contained in imported cookies."

Unbeknownst to everyone, Parker-Jia's Parker Bake Sale started as a fundraiser to help stray dogs and unwanted puppy litters that get left behind.

"My goal was to raise funds to supply nourishing food and medication for abandoned puppies and dogs. After numerous sold-out bake sales, I raised enough to help over 20 puppies that have overcome life-threatening illnesses and have grown into healthy strong pets today."

Little did she knew that the little—and literally—pet project would blossom into something more as Parker Bake Sale became, in her own words, "extremely popular and overwhelmingly successful."

"All the while my passion for baking was thriving and it gained so many supporters, some of whom became consistent customers who followed the bake sales for more and more desserts. Since then, establishing The Cookie Shop today was a necessary step in order to expand the wants of many dessert fans on the regular."

Parker-Jia said the current economic crisis and the fact that the CNMI is just beginning to come out of COVID-19 didn't deter her from becoming a full-fledged entrepreneur.

"Opening my cookie shop was a plan I worked really hard and had faith to succeed with. Opening a business regardless of the economy, ideal or not, is a big decision for anyone. Investments, hopes, dreams, and commitments are all on the line. What made me decide to open a business was resilience, as a native Refaluwasch-Chamorro and African-American decent. My heritage is survived through a rich history of navigating, surviving, and overcoming life changes. We are all going through the highs and lows of our economy, making sacrifices and working hard to get through it as business owners, employees, public servants, and retirees but we are also blessed with the foundation our parents, family, friends, and ancestors before us to build dreams into reality and that is my intention with building The Cookie Shop today," she said.

The Cookie Shop is open from Tuesday to Saturday, 11am-6pm. For more information, email thecookieshop670@gmail.com or contact (670) 483-3331. The Cookie Shop is also on social media—Facebook, Instagram, and TikTok @thecookieshop670.

Moody's lowers US credit outlook, though keeps triple-A rating

WASHINGTON (AP)—The credit rating agency Moody's Investors Service lowered its outlook on the U.S. government's debt on Friday to "negative" from "stable," citing the cost of rising interest rates and political polarization in Congress.

Moody's retained its top triple-A credit rating on U.S. government debt, though it is the last of the three major credit rating agencies to do so. Fitch Ratings lowered its rating to AA+ from AAA in August, and Standard & Poor's downgraded the U.S. in 2011. A reduced outlook, however, raises the risk that Moody's could eventually strip its triple-A rating from the U.S. as well.

A lower rating on U.S. debt could cost taxpayers if it leads borrowers to demand higher interest rates on Treasury bills and notes. The yield on the 10-year Treasury has risen significantly since July, from about 3.9% to 4.6% Friday, an unusually sharp rise.

Some market analysts have said the August Fitch downgrade may have contributed to that increase, though most point to other factors as bigger drivers, such as the Federal Reserve's commitment to keeping its benchmark rate at a 22-year high to battle inflation.

"In the context of higher interest rates, without effective fiscal policy measures to reduce government spending or increase revenues, Moody's expects that the U.S.'s fiscal deficits will remain very large, significantly weakening debt affordability," the agency said in a statement.

The Biden administration criticized Moody's decision.

"While the statement by Moody's maintains the United States' Aaa rating, we disagree with the shift to a negative outlook," Deputy Treasury Secretary Wally Adeyemo said. "The American economy remains strong, and Treasury securities are the world's preeminent safe and liquid asset."

The federal government's budget deficit jumped to $1.7 trillion in the budget year that ended Sept. 30, up from $1.38 trillion the previous year. Analysts have warned that with interest rates heading higher, interest costs on the national debt will eat up a rising share of tax revenue.

Separately, congressional lawmakers left Washington for the weekend without a plan to avoid a potential government shutdown that could occur by Nov. 17. Moody's cited congressional dysfunction as one reason it lowered its outlook on U.S. debt.

Fragile global economy at stake as US and China seek to cool tensions

WASHINGTON (AP)—The United States and China are the two global economic heavyweights. Combined, they produce more than 40% of the world's goods and services.

So when Washington and Beijing do economic battle, as they have for five years running, the rest of the world suffers, too. And when they hold a rare high-level summit, as Presidents Joe Biden and Xi Jinping will this week, it can have global consequences.

The world's economy could surely benefit from a U.S.-China détente. Since 2020, it has suffered one crisis after another—the COVID-19 pandemic, soaring inflation, surging interest rates, violent conflicts in Ukraine and now Gaza. The global economy is expected to grow a lackluster 3% this year and 2.9% in 2024, according to the International Monetary Fund.

"Having the world's two largest economies at loggerheads at such a fraught moment," said Eswar Prasad, senior professor of trade policy at Cornell University, "exacerbates the negative impact of various geopolitical shocks that have hit the world economy."

Hopes have risen that Washington and Beijing can at least cool some of their economic tensions at the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation summit, which starts Sunday in San Francisco. The meeting will bring together 21 Pacific Rim countries, which collectively represent 40% of the world's people and nearly half of global trade.

The marquee event will be the Biden-Xi meeting Wednesday on the sidelines of the summit, the first time the two leaders will have spoken in a year, during which time frictions between the two nations have worsened. The White House has sought to tamp down expectations, saying to expect no breakthroughs.

Nation

IF REELECTED

Biden wants to complete goals on civil rights, taxes, social services

WASHINGTON (AP)—President Joe Biden has a simple reelection pitch to voters—let him "finish the job."

So what does that mean? What's left for him to get done?

Unlike Donald Trump, the front-runner for the 2024 Republican presidential nomination who has been releasing videos and statements detailing his agenda, Biden hasn't formally released his plans as part of his campaign.

But his ambitions are no secret, and his goals for child care, community college and prescription drugs have been laid out in detail during the Democrat's first term. He also has unfulfilled promises on civil rights, such as protecting access to the ballot box, preventing police misconduct and restoring the nationwide right to abortion. Banning firearms known as assault rifles remains a priority as well.

The result is a second-term agenda that could look a lot like Biden's first-term agenda, with some of the same political challenges. Almost none of this can get done without cooperation from Congress, and many of these goals already have been blocked or pared down because of opposition on Capitol Hill.

Biden has achieved bipartisan victories on infrastructure projects and public funding for the domestic computer chip industry. But Democrats would need to win wide majorities in both the House and the Senate to clear a path for the rest of his plans.

AP

President Joe Biden speaks about student loan debt forgiveness, in the Roosevelt Room of the White House, Oct. 4, 2023, in Washington. Biden has a lot of unfinished business from his first term that he intends to continue if reelected.

"We're going to finish as much of the job as we can in the next year," said Bruce Reed, Biden's deputy chief of staff. "And finish the rest after that."

Biden's campaign expressed confidence that the president's agenda would stack up well against Republicans in next year's election. Kevin Munoz, a spokesman, described the election as "a choice between fighting for the middle class or shilling for rich special interests" and he said "it's a contrast we are more than happy to make."

One other difference between Biden and Trump doesn't fit neatly into policy white papers, but it's core to their political foundation. Biden has made defending American democracy a cornerstone of his administration, while Trump tried to overturn his election loss in 2020.

The result of the 2024 campaign could reshape not only government policy but the future of the country's bedrock institutions.

TAXES

Biden's plans are expensive and he doesn't want to increase the deficit, so that means he's looking to raise taxes on the wealthy.

He already has succeeded in implementing a 15% minimum tax on companies with annual income exceeding $1 billion.

Biden has proposed raising the top tax rate to 39.6%, the corporate tax rate to 28% and the stock buyback tax to 4%.

He wants a minimum tax of 25% on the wealthiest Americans, a levy that would be applied not only to income but unrealized capital gains. The idea, which Biden called the "billionaire minimum income tax," could prove difficult to put in place, not to mention extremely hard to push through Congress, given Republican opposition to higher taxes.

SOCIAL SERVICES AND HEALTH CARE

Biden's original signature plan was known as Build Back Better, a cornucopia of proposals that would have dramatically changed the role of the federal government in Americans' lives.

It was pared down because of resistance from Sen. Joe Manchin, a West Virginia Democrat who is a key vote in the narrowly divided Senate and announced this past week that he will not seek reelection. The result was the Inflation Reduction Act, which included financial incentives for clean energy and limits on prescription drug costs, but not many other programs.

Biden will want to bring back the ideas that were left on the cutting room floor. That includes making two years of community college tuition free, offering universal preschool and limiting the cost of child care to 7% of income for most families.

He also wants to resuscitate the expanded child tax credit. The American Rescue Plan, the pandemic-era relief legislation, boosted the credit to $3,000 for children over six and $3,600 for children younger than age 6. The expansion lapsed after a year, returning the credit to $2,000 per child, when his original package stalled.

More work is left on prescription drugs. The monthly cost of insulin was capped at $35 for Medicare recipients. Biden wants the same limit for all patients.

GUN VIOLENCE

The White House recently announced a new office dedicated to preventing gun violence. Biden also signed legislation that's intended to help officials keep guns out of the hands of domestic abusers and other dangerous people.

But Biden's biggest goal, a ban on so-called assault weapons, remains out of reach because of Republican opposition on Capitol Hill. Such a ban was in place from 1994 to 2004, but it wasn't extended after it expired. Although the proposal hasn't been spelled out in detail, it would likely affect popular high-powered weapons such as the AR-15, which can shoot dozens of bullets at a fast pace.

Another item on the wish list is universal background checks, which increase scrutiny of sales conducted through gun shows or other unlicensed avenues.

CIVIL RIGHTS

Biden took office at a time of national upheaval over the role of racism in policing and the future of democracy. George Floyd, a Black man in Minneapolis, was murdered by a white police officer, and Trump tried to overturn Biden's election victory, leading to the riot on Jan. 6, 2021, at the U.S. Capitol.

Biden promised to address both of these issues through landmark legislation, but he came up short of his goals.

On policing, bipartisan negotiations on Capitol Hill failed to reach a deal, particularly when it came to making it easier to sue over allegations of misconduct. So Biden instead crafted an executive order with input from activists and police. The final version changes rules for federal law enforcement, but it does little to alter how local departments do their jobs.

Trump's agenda if elected as president again include deportation raids, tariffs, mass firings

NEW YORK (AP)—A mass deportation operation. A new Muslim ban. Tariffs on all imported goods and "freedom cities" built on federal land.

Much of the 2024 presidential campaign has been dominated by the myriad investigations into former President Donald Trump and the subsequent charges against him. But with less than a year until Election Day, Trump is dominating the race for the Republican nomination and has already laid out a sweeping set of policy goals should he win a second term.

His ideas, and even the issues he focuses on most, are wildly different from President Joe Biden's proposals. If implemented, Trump's plans would represent a dramatic government overhaul arguably more consequential than that of his first term. His presidency, especially the early days, was marked by chaos, infighting and a wave of hastily written executive orders that were quickly overturned by the courts.

Some of his current ideas would probably end up in court or impeded by Congress. But Trump's campaign and allied groups are assembling policy books with detailed plans.

A look at his agenda:

DISMANTLING THE 'DEEP STATE'

Trump would try to strip tens of thousands of career employees of their civil service protections. That way, they could be fired as he seeks to "totally obliterate the deep state."

He would try to accomplish that by reissuing a 2020 executive order known as "Schedule F." That would allow him to reclassify masses of employees, with a particular focus, he has said, on "corrupt bureaucrats who have weaponized our justice system" and "corrupt actors in our national security and intelligence apparatus." Given his anger at the FBI and federal prosecutors pursuing criminal cases against him, Trump probably would target people linked to those prosecutions for retribution.

Beyond the firings, he wants to crack down on government officials who leak to reporters. He also wants to require that federal employees pass a new civil service test.

THE US-MEXICO BORDER

Trump has pledged to "immediately stop the invasion of our southern border" and end illegal immigration.

As part of that plan, he says he would immediately direct U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement to undertake the largest domestic deportation operation in American history. He would target people who are legally living in the United States but harbor "jihadist sympathies" and revoke the student visas of those who espouse anti-American and antisemitic views.

In a bid to secure the U.S.-Mexico border, Trump says he will move thousands of troops currently stationed overseas and shift federal agents, including those at the Drug Enforcement Administration and FBI, to immigration enforcement. He also wants to build more of the border wall.

Asia

Millions of Indians set world record in celebrating Diwali

LUCKNOW, India (AP)—Millions of Indians celebrated Diwali on Sunday with a Guinness World Record number of bright earthen oil lamps as concerns about air pollution soared in the South Asian country.

» As worries about air pollution rise

Across the country, dazzling multi-colored lights decked homes and streets as devotees celebrated the annual Hindu festival of light symbolizing the victory of light over darkness.

But the spectacular and much-awaited massive lighting of the oil lamps took place — as usual —at Saryu River, in Ayodhya in Uttar Pradesh state, the birthplace of their most revered deity, the god Ram.

At dusk on Saturday, devotees lit over 2.22 million lamps and kept them burning for 45 minutes as Hindu religious hymns filled the air at the banks of the river, setting a new world Record. Last year, over 1.5 million earthen lamps were lit.

After counting the lamps, Guinness Book of World Records representatives presented a record certificate to the state's top elected official Yogi Adityanath.

Over 24,000 volunteers, mostly college students, helped prepare for the new record, said Pratibha Goyal, vice-chancellor of Dr. Ram Manohar Lohia Avadh University, in Ayodhya.

Diwali, a national holiday across India, is celebrated by socializing and exchanging gifts with family and friends. Many light earthen oil lamps or candles, and fireworks are set off as part of the celebrations. In the evening, a special prayer is dedicated to the Hindu goddess Lakshmi, who is believed to bring luck and prosperity.

Over the weekend, authorities ran extra trains to accommodate the huge numbers trying to reach their hometowns to join family celebrations.

The festival came as worries about air quality in India rose. A "hazardous" 400-500 level was recorded on the air quality index last week, more than 10 times the global safety threshold, which can cause acute and chronic bronchitis and asthma attacks. But on Saturday, unexpected rain and a strong wind improved the levels to 220, according to the government-run Central Pollution Control Board.

Air pollution level is expected to soar again after the celebrations end Sunday night because of the fireworks used.

Last week, officials in New Delhi shut down primary schools and banned polluting vehicles and construction work in an attempt to reduce the worst haze and smog of the season, which has posed respiratory problems for people and enveloped monuments and high-rise buildings in and around India's capital.

Authorities deployed water sprinklers and anti-smog guns to control the haze and many people used masks to escape the air pollution.

New Delhi tops the list almost every year among the many Indian cities with poor air quality, particularly in the winter, when the burning of crop residues in neighboring states coincides with cooler temperatures that trap deadly smoke.

Some Indian states have banned the sale of fireworks and imposed other restrictions to stem the pollution. Authorities have also urged residents to light "green crackers" that emit less pollutants than normal firecrackers. But similar bans have often been disregarded in the past.

ASIAN BRIEFS

Pakistani police cracking down on migrants, arresting Afghan women and children, activists claim

KARACHI, Pakistan (AP)—Pakistani police are arresting Afghan women and children in southern Sindh province as part of a government crackdown on migrants, activists said Saturday.

More than 250,000 Afghans have left Pakistan in recent weeks as the government rounded up, arrested and kicked out foreign nationals without papers. It set an Oct. 31 deadline for migrants without legal status to leave the country voluntarily. The expulsions mostly affect Afghans, who make up the majority of foreigners living in Pakistan. Authorities maintain they are targeting all who are in the country illegally. Human rights lawyer Moniza Kakar said police in Sindh launch midnight raids on people's homes and detain Afghan families, including women and children. Since Nov. 1, she and other activists have stationed themselves outside detention centers in Karachi to help Afghans. But they say they face challenges accessing the centers. They don't have information about raid timings or deportation buses leaving the port city for Afghanistan. "They've been arresting hundreds of Afghan nationals daily since the Oct. 31 deadline, sparing neither children nor women," Kakar said. Last December, Afghan women and children were among 1,200 people jailed in Karachi for entering the city without valid travel documents. The arrests brought criticism from around Afghanistan after images of locked-up children were circulated online.

Rescuers dig to reach more than 30 workers trapped in collapsed road tunnel in north India

LUCKNOW, India (AP)—Rescuers were digging through dirt and parts of a collapsed road tunnel Monday to reach more than 30 workers trapped by a landslide at the construction project in northern India. All of the construction workers are safe, police officer Prashant Kumar said, adding that they have been supplied with oxygen and water. He said the rescuers had established contact with the trapped individuals. The collapse occurred Sunday in Uttarakhand, a mountainous state dotted with Hindu temples that attracts many pilgrims and tourists. Massive construction of buildings and roadways have taken place in recent years in Uttarakhand. The trapped workers were building part of the Chardham all-weather road, a flagship federal government project connecting various Hindu pilgrimage sites. Kumar said it is not exactly clear how many workers are trapped. Rescue efforts began Sunday, with authorities pumping oxygen through a pipe into the collapsed section of the tunnel to help workers breathe. "The team has progressed 15 meters (yards) into the tunnel, with an additional 35 meters (yards) yet to cover," Kumar said, adding that more than 150 rescuers had used drilling equipment and excavators to clear debris through the night. The collapsed portion of the 4.5-kilometer (2.7-mile) tunnel is about 200 meters (500 feet) from the entrance, officials told the Press Trust of India news agency.

World

Heavy fighting rages near largest hospital in Gaza

AP

Hezbollah fighters carry the coffin of their comrade, Mohammed Ali Assaf, who was killed by an Israeli strike in Syria Friday morning, during his funeral procession in the southern Beirut suburb of Dahiyeh, Lebanon, Saturday, Nov. 11, 2023.

KHAN YOUNIS, Gaza Strip (AP)—Health officials and people trapped inside Gaza's largest hospital rejected Israel's claims that it was helping babies and others evacuate Sunday, saying fighting continued just outside the facility where incubators lay idle with no electricity and critical supplies were running out.

» People trapped inside say they cannot flee

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has dismissed urgent calls for a cease-fire unless it includes the release of all the nearly 240 hostages captured by Hamas in the Oct. 7 rampage that triggered the war.

A day after Netanyahu said Israel was bringing its "full force" with the aim of ending Hamas' 16-year rule in Gaza, residents reported heavy airstrikes and shelling, including around Shifa Hospital. Israel, without providing evidence, has accused Hamas of concealing a command post inside and under the compound, allegations denied by Hamas and hospital staff.

"They are outside, not far from the gates," said Ahmed al-Boursh, a resident sheltering there.

The hospital's last generator ran out of fuel Saturday, leading to the deaths of three premature babies and four other patients, according to the Health Ministry. It said another 36 babies are at risk of dying.

Israel's military asserted it placed 300 liters (79 gallons) of fuel near Shifa overnight for an emergency generator powering incubators for premature babies and coordinated the delivery with hospital officials. But the military said Hamas prevented the hospital from receiving the fuel.

A Health Ministry spokesperson, Ashraf al-Qidra, disputed the account and also told Al Jazeera the fuel would not be enough to operate the generator an hour. "This is a mockery towards the patients and children," Al-Qidra said.

Speaking to CNN, Netanyahu asserted that "100 or so" people had been evacuated from Shifa and that Israel had created safe corridors.

But Health Ministry Undersecretary Munir al-Boursh said Israeli snipers have deployed around Shifa, firing at any movement.

"There are wounded in the house, and we can't reach them," he told Al Jazeera. "We can't stick our heads out of the window."

Attacks by Hezbollah wound 7 Israeli troops, 10 others along border with Israel

JERUSALEM (AP)—Attacks by Lebanon's Hezbollah group Sunday wounded seven Israeli troops and 10 other people, Israel's military and rescue services said.

The clashes came as skirmishes between the Iran-backed group and Israeli military continue to intensify along the Lebanon-Israel border, threatening to escalate into another front in the Mideast's latest war.

The assault was the most serious incident involving civilians along the Lebanon-Israel border since an Israeli airstrike in south Lebanon on Nov. 5 killed a woman and three children.

The Israeli army's chief spokesman, Rear Adm. Daniel Hagari, said the Hezbollah attack on Israeli civilians was "very serious."

He said Israel is focused on its war in Gaza but it also remains at a "very high level of preparedness in the north" and ready to take further action.

The Israeli military "has operational plans to change the security status in the north," he told reporters. "The security status will not remain such that the civilians of the north do not feel safe returning to their homes."

The Israeli military said in a statement that "seven IDF soldiers were lightly injured as a result of the mortar shell launches in the area of Manara in northern Israel earlier today." Israeli rescue services did not identify the location or provide information about the 10 others wounded by rocket blasts and shrapnel, but said two of them were in critical condition.

The Israeli military said they identified 15 launches from Lebanon over the past hour and their defense systems intercepted four of them. The rest fell into open areas.

Hamas' military wing, meanwhile, claimed responsibility for shelling the northern Haifa and the Israeli border towns of Na'ura and Shlomi from southern Lebanon without giving any further details.

Overdrive

2024 BMW M8 Competition Gran Coupe is one slinky, sexy sedan

By LARRY PRINTZ
Tribune News Service

The 2024 BMW M8 Competition Gran Coupe—which given its name is inexplicably a four-door sedan—starts at a price that people once paid for their homes: $138,800. Given the rich tariff, the 2024 BMW M8 Competition Gran Coupe comes with something very comforting: the thought that no matter what the driving situation, you have the horsepower, agility and impeccable style that comes with a vehicle that costs six figures. And there's something simply wonderful about that.

The test model supplied by BMW was a 2023, but the BMW M8 Competition Gran Coupe remains unchanged for 2024.

First arriving in 2020, the BMW M8 Gran Coupe is wrapped in enticingly slinky, sexy sheet metal with a low overall height that reduces headroom but gives it a sporty appearance for a sedan. Our car was enhanced by its carbon fiber roof and carbon fiber exterior trim on exterior components, including the side mirrors and rear spoiler.

BMW

The 2023 M8 Competition Gran Coupe.

Available in 600-horsepower base trim, and 617-horsepower Competition trim, the difference in horsepower amounts to one-tenth of a second running 0-to-60 mph, which for the latter trim amounts to three seconds. That's fast for any car. Just count to three. You're at 60 mph on your way to a top speed of 150 mph, or 190 mph when the optional M Driver's Package is specified. When it is, you'll nab M School driver training at the BMW Performance Center in either in Greer, South Carolina, or Thermal, California. Given this fierce four-door's capabilities, I'd highly recommend it. Besides, it's really fun. Another recommended option: carbon-ceramic brakes. This rig is quick.

Power is routed through an eight-speed automatic transmission to all four wheels, meaning this sedan can safely transfer its power to the pavement while providing incredible amounts of grip. But you can still have fun thanks to a rear-wheel-drive mode that allows you to play with the back-end. It's a hoot.

BMW

The 2023 M8 Competition Gran Coupe.

NUTS & BOLTS

- **Base price**: $138,800
- **Engine**: Twin-turbocharged 4.4-liter V-8
- **Horsepower/Torque**: 617/553 pound-feet
- **EPA fuel economy (city/highway)**: 15/22 mpg
- **Observed fuel economy**: 21.6 mpg
- **Fuel required**: Premium
- **Length/Width/Height**: 200.9/76.5/55.9 inches
- **Ground clearance**: 5.1 inches
- **Payload**: 900 ponds
- **Cargo capacity**: 11 cubic feet

To say this sedan is blisteringly fast is an understatement. In fact, a number of well-worn adjectives comes up when attempting to describe its performance, with words like rocket and missile coming to mind. And the power is maintained through corners, with tires that seem reluctant to relinquish any grip. The body remains flat thanks to its standard adaptive suspension. The ride is very firm, even with the suspension dialed into comfort mode. There's some compliance over the rough stuff, but not enough to mistake it for the cushy 7 Series. Steering is perfectly weighted with enough communication to know what the car is doing. Braking is strong, providing short, straight stops, although brake pedal feel could be better.

Our test car returned 21.6 mpg, slightly less than the EPA's 22 mpg rating, resulting mostly from highway driving. Given its performance, that's very good for a conventional gas powertrain. Premium fuel is required.

The test car was fitted with optional M Carbon bucket seats, which not only look great but also prove supportive during aggressive maneuvers as well as long trips in the saddle. They're ventilated, while all seating positions are heated. There's also a heated steering wheel and armrest. As you may have surmised, both the front and back seats have center consoles, so there's also four-zone climate control.

That said, the cabin is fairly cozy despite this sedan's 200-plus-inch length. For the eternally claustrophobic, I would recommend the 7 Series instead. For the rest of us, there's the unbridled fun of the M8 Competition Gran Coupe, a fast and furious four-door and serious fashionista.

The M8's cabin is fabulously finished with fine detailing that feels appropriately extravagant. But its design doesn't dazzle you with the third-world casino vibe of some high-end Mercedes-Benz models, nor does it suffer from the dour Germanic aura of Audi. Instead, there's a lavishness that's indulgent without being showy.

A 12.3-inch digital instrument cluster and a 12.3-inch digital infotainment touchscreen with an ancillary rotary controller on the center console. Apple CarPlay, Android Auto and a Wi-Fi hotspot are standard. Our test car came with the optional Bowers & Wilkins audio system, which provides flawless sound.

But the sound that resonates most is the sound of the M8's Twin-turbo powerplant, unleashing its might as it hauls down the highway, its passengers ensconced in impeccable comfort. It's a beguiling, delightful experience. Yet the 2024 BMW M8 Competition Gran Coupe's performance, technology and fine fittings makes long journeys effortless. After one eight-hour 750-mile drive, I arrived as if I had just left the house, not feeling fatigued or tired. It's why cars like the 2024 BMW M8 Competition Gran Coupe command a premium.

And that premium is justified by the 2024 BMW M8 Competition Gran Coupe's performance. And its name is apt, for its overall agility, comfort and tech package are truly a grand coup for any buyer.

Ever need to replace timing chain?

Q: I own a 2011 Toyota Camry with 116,000 miles. Is there ever a need to replace or service the timing chain due to routine maintenance? The salesperson who sold me the car said it should last the life of the car.

G.K., Naperville, Illinois

A: Timing chains do last the life of the car. Timing belts, on the other hand, require routine replacement—usually around 100,000 miles. If the vehicle has an "interference engine," one where the valves and pistons crash into each other if valve timing is lost, that engine becomes a boat anchor. Check your vehicle's owner's manual.

■■■

Q: We just purchased a 2022 Mercedes-Benz GLC 300 SUV. In receiving the post-purchase talk with the service manager, he indicated the need to run premium gas (91 octane) in the vehicle. I told him many gas stations carry premium (93 octane) or plus (89 octane). Are there any issues with alternating both premium and regular to get an average of 91 octane ?

J.Z., Allentown, Pennsylvania

A: I advise against switching fuels back and forth. But I am OK with mixing them together at the pump. Determine the capacity of your tank and fill halfway with each octane gas. Of course, it's unlikely that you will have a dry tank so you have to do the math. You might try watching the fuel gauge on the dash and switch to the other octane gas at the midpoint. Of course, you will have to finish one sale and initiate another.

■■■

Q: At a recent service inspection, I was advised that the rear frame in my 2011 Ford Escape was severely rusted. It may eventually be unsafe to drive. Who would be able to do a repair? Is there some warranty or recall provision that I can use? I am looking for a way to move forward.

B.H., Chicago

A: Ford has had several issues with subframe rust and issued recalls for 2001-04 Escapes. I am not aware of a recall for the 2011 model year. You can contact a Ford dealer and inquire or you may choose to log onto the NHTSA website (nhtsa.gov/recalls) and enter your car's VIN. A welding shop may be able to fix the problem.

■■■

Q: I have a Subaru Forester that I absolutely love and don't want to part with unless I have to. I moved from Connecticut to Michigan three years ago. It currently has 113,000 miles and I want more. The check engine light has come on several times in those three years and has been fixed with minor repairs like the gas cap. However, the light came on a few months ago and my mechanic said it had to do with emissions. He said if the light is flashing, it means "fatal."

MOTORMOUTH

BY BOB WEBER
Tribune News Service

Bob Weber is a writer and mechanic who became an ASE-certified Master Automobile Technician in 1976. Weber's work has appeared in professional trade magazines and various consumer publications including Consumer Guide *and* Consumers Digest. *Send questions along with name and town to motormouth.tribune@gmail.com.*

Yesterday I drove it for about 15 minutes. No light. I'd like to believe it's a miracle and it fixed itself, but I don't.

N.M., Brooklyn, Michigan

A: The check engine light always has something to do with emissions. Of course, various components in various systems (spark plugs, gas caps or even a thermostat for instance) can go bad and cause emissions to go up and trigger the light. If the light goes off by itself, the problem was intermittent. If the problem does not reappear after 50 ignition key cycles, the light will stay off. The problem has gone away. Professional automobile technicians can examine everything using a sophisticated scanner that plugs into the on-board data link connector. Getting reliable information is worthwhile. The full report may help you decide whether to keep or sell.

Life & Style

Flood of Gaza war video is proving both illuminating and troubling

NEW YORK (AP)—A camera livestreaming the skyline of Gaza City captures streaks of light. Dash-cam video from a car in Israel spots a killer coming into view. A satellite identifies tank tracks in the dirt, and a mall security camera catches the moment a bomb in Gaza detonates.

While journalists' access to the war in Gaza is limited, a flood of video from all sorts of sources documents what is—and isn't—going on.

At news organizations, sifting through material found online to determine what is real, and to unearth the sometimes unexpected clues that can be used to tie stories together, are increasingly important—and often emotionally overwhelming—jobs.

"It has become a key part of doing journalism in the modern age," said Katie Polglase, a London-based investigative producer for CNN.

CBS News last week announced the launch of "CBS News Confirmed," the formation of a team to use data and technology to study online evidence. Earlier this year, the similar "BBC Verify" unit was formed to bring more open source reporting methods to the worldwide news outlet.

The buildup of this capability was seen most prominently when The New York Times, Washington Post, Wall Street Journal, CNN and The Associated Press did in-depth analyses of video evidence—including those streaks in the sky—to try and determine the disputed cause of a deadly Oct. 17 explosion at Gaza's al-Ahli Arab Hospital.

There was no unanimity—and some caution about drawing conclusions absent an ability to examine evidence on the ground.

AP

Palestinian kids, who were displaced by the Israeli bombardment of the Gaza Strip, watch a phone in a UNDP-provided tent camp in Khan Younis, Gaza Strip, Wednesday, Nov. 1, 2023.

NO LONGER JUST ON THE SCENE

In an earlier era, viewers generally saw the aftermath of a news event unless television cameras happened to be on the scene. Now, with millions of people carrying phones that have video cameras, the aftermath isn't good enough. The buzzword is "now."

"The reality is that audiences expect to participate in a shared viewing experience, to learn what is going on along with anchors and reporters," said Wendy McMahon, president of CBS News and Stations.

That means combing through an endless supply of video posted on sources like X (formerly Twitter), YouTube, Instagram, Telegram and Facebook. Much is harrowing: images of mangled bodies, bloodied children carried out of rubble, people distraught at the loss of loved ones. The effect of seeing such images is known by those who must watch them frequently as "vicarious trauma."

Combatants know well the power of such images, which explains why some Hamas members wore cameras to document their Oct. 7 killing spree in Israel. Meanwhile, Israel compiled and has been showing grisly images of that day to journalists.

"The degree to which social media has been used is very sophisticated," said Rhona Tarrant, senior editor at the investigative site Storyful. "There's so much information. There's so much content."

News organizations are constantly weighing their job to convey reality against the concern that violent images are too traumatizing for consumers to see. Too much can desensitize viewers. Yet sometimes the repetition—the ongoing grind of war—is a story in itself.

Through images that have appeared online in recent weeks, people "learned" about Bella Hadid, a model of Palestinian descent, denouncing Hamas' attack in Israel; a row of supposed bodies of dead Palestinians covered in white shrouds where one mysteriously moved; and a Palestinian "actor" seriously wounded in a hospital bed one day and walking unharmed the next.

None of it happened. All of the images were fake.

Video of Hadid accepting an award for activism in Lyme Disease was manipulated to make it seem like different words were coming from her mouth. The "moving body" video came from a 2013 protest rally in Egypt. The supposed "actor" was two separate people, and the image of one in a hospital bed preceded the start of the war.

That's where the sleuthing skills of journalists studying video comes into play. Much of what is online now comes from past conflicts, including in Gaza itself, being passed off as new; search engines exist to help determine the truth. Sometimes images from video games are passed off as real, but experts can usually spot them.

"This war in many respects has confirmed our working assumption, that news organizations would see an influx of deep fakes and misinformation at a scale that was never seen before," McMahon said.

HOW POTENT IS AI'S POWER?

Although the advance of artificial intelligence is a great fear, some experts says its use so far in this war has been limited in comparison to, say, old video being passed off as new. "People believe that AI is more powerful than it is at the moment," said James Law, editor-in-chief at Storyful.

While debunking falsehoods is a big part of what journalists are doing, the use of video and other publicly available material—the definition of open-source reporting—has also come into its own in recent weeks.

Storyful, which formed in 2009 to help news organizations make sense of all that is out there, is particularly adept at this new form of detective work. Its investigators use many tools, including mapping software, flight-tracking, security cameras, news agency videos.

Mom's abrupt shift leaves kids scratching their heads

DEAR ABBY: One night about six months ago, my mom walked out on my dad. A week later, she admitted she had been having an affair for a whole year. My parents' divorce was final three months after she left. Mom has now announced to me and my siblings that she's engaged and plans to marry her fiance just six months after the divorce. We think it's a terrible idea. We really dislike her fiance and think he's a bad guy based on our interactions with him. Mom claims to be happy, but we don't believe her. Should we just let her live her life? How do we accept this new reality?

THROWN IN WASHINGTON

DEAR THROWN: If you and your siblings plan to maintain a relationship with your mother, handle this like the hot potato it is. Recognize that things were not as rosy as you assumed in your parents' marriage, take things one step at a time, and make an extra effort to look out for your father. Then cross your fingers and hope that as painful as this disruption is, everything works out for the best.

■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: I have been married 33 years. We have no savings. We live paycheck to paycheck. My husband keeps borrowing more and more, and our credit cards are out of hand. He still works. I am retired. He has a 28-foot enclosed trailer stuffed with mechanical items, hobbies, collectibles and who knows what else, as well as a double garage filled with so much you can't walk in. There is $10,000 to $15,000 worth of stuff. He refuses to sell anything even though he hasn't even been to the trailer in more than a year. We have terrible fights over this. I'm losing sleep over our future. Any ideas?

GOING DOWNHILL IN CALIFORNIA

DEAR GOING DOWNHILL: From what you have described, your husband is a hoarder. Some people do this because of anxiety or depression. Your husband needs to get to the root of why he spends compulsively on things he isn't using. His doctor could refer him for counseling and possibly medication that would help if he is willing. However, if he's unwilling, you may need to separate your finances from his before he encumbers you both further.

■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: How do you tell your adult children it's time for them to start planning family events? Neither of my 30-something kids has planned a thing. I thought I raised them better than this, but unless I plan birthdays, holidays, etc., nothing happens. I'm tired of being the social glue. How do I get them to step up?

PASSING THE TORCH

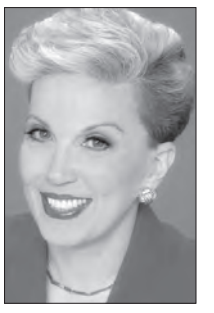
DEAR PASSING: You can encourage your children to step forward and assume some responsibility for family events by telling them in plain English. As the next holiday draws near, approach them individually and as a group, and inform them if they want family celebrations, they should start planning some of them because, after all these years, you need a break.

■ ■ ■

To receive a collection of Abby's most memorable – and most frequently requested – poems and essays, send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $8 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby – Keepers Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

DEAR ABBY

By Abigail Van Buren
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

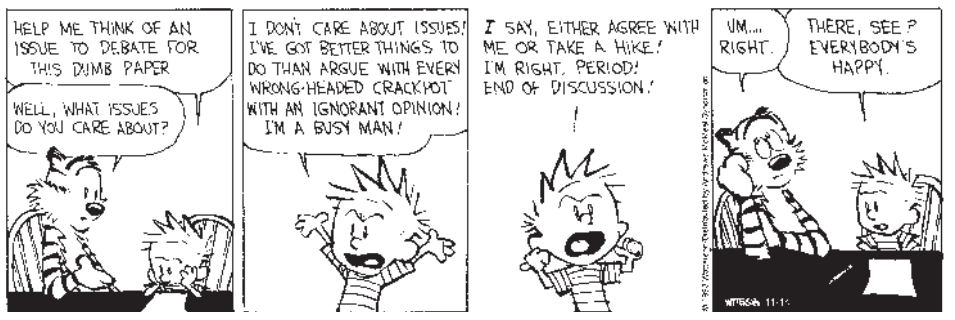


Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson


HELP ME THINK OF AN ISSUE TO DEBATE FOR THIS DUMB PAPER
WELL, WHAT ISSUES DO YOU CARE ABOUT?
I DON'T CARE ABOUT ISSUES! I'VE GOT BETTER THINGS TO DO THAN ARGUE WITH EVERY WRONG-HEADED CRACKPOT WITH AN IGNORANT OPINION! I'M A BUSY MAN!
I SAY, EITHER AGREE WITH ME OR TAKE A HIKE! I'M RIGHT, PERIOD! END OF DISCUSSION!
UM.... RIGHT.
THERE, SEE? EVERYBODY'S HAPPY.

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

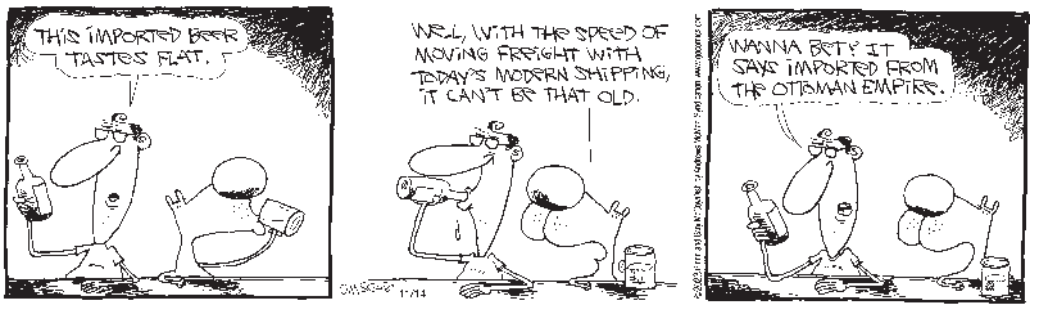
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

SO, TALK TO ME. WORK ISN'T GOING WELL?
HA. WHAT WORK?
NOT MUCH COMING IN. AND MEANWHILE, LAURA'S BOOKS ARE SELLING LIKE CRAZY. I FEEL LIKE I'M...
I'M ACTUALLY CONSIDERING A...A...
AN OFFICE JOB?
DON'T SAY IT SO HARSH LIKE THAT!!

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy


THIS IMPORTED BEER TASTES FLAT.
WELL, WITH THE SPEED OF MOVING FREIGHT WITH TODAY'S MODERN SHIPPING, IT CAN'T BE THAT OLD.
WANNA BET? IT SAYS IMPORTED FROM THE OTTOMAN EMPIRE.

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS
1 Honey drink
5 Parisian pal
8 Diplomacy
12 Alan of "The West Wing"
13 Faux —
14 Some JFK guesses
15 "Beverly Hillbillies" family name
17 NYC gallery
18 Half dozen
19 "Nighthawks" painter Edward
21 Square dance group
24 Curse
25 Asia's — Sea
26 "Bel Canto" author Ann
30 Scepter
31 "Glee" guitarist
32 — culpa
33 Actress Johansson
35 Campus area
36 Online auction site
37 Corn covers
38 Fragrant wood
41 French "yes"
42 Slender woodwind
43 Pear variety
48 Oodles
49 "30 Rock" role
50 Onion relative
51 Workout count
52 Tokyo's historic name
53 Venetian blind part

DOWN
1 PC alternative
2 Right angle
3 Oklahoma city
4 Maiden
5 Pinnacle
6 Yoga pad
7 "Anything else?"
8 Plant-based protein
9 Perched on
10 Showed up
11 Bygone ruler
16 Peach center
20 Formerly
21 Rowboat needs
22 Gator's kin
23 "There!"
24 Eccentric
26 "We the people" document
27 Flightless birds
28 Ship wood
29 Tiny amounts
31 Jessica of "Dark Angel"
34 Puts back to zero
35 Old-fashioned pens
37 Grass shack
38 Piglet's dad
39 Competent
40 Air show stunt
41 Rice-shaped pasta
44 Help
45 Sushi choice
46 Bubble —
47 B'way show purchase

Solution time: 22 mins.

I	I	P		D	L	A	N	S		J	O	Y
A	M	A		A	N	G	I	E		A	I	E
J	O	L	L	Y	G	O	O	D		Y	E	A
			F	I	I		R	A	N	G	O	R
R	E	J	O	I	N		E	N	Y	A		
F	X	O		T	F	N		S	F	T	T	O
A	P	E	R		S	E	A		T	S	A	R
I	O	G	O	N		T	V	S		B	I	T
			R	A	I	L		E	T	H	Y	L	S
V	I	F	N	N	A		N	Y	F			
A	D	F		J	U	N	G	L	F	G	Y	M
P	F	N		A	D	I	F	U		R	O	F
F	S	F		S	E	N	D	S		R	U	N

Yesterday's answer 11-14

1	2	3	4	■	5	6	7	■	8	9	10	11
12				■	13			■	14			
15				16				■	17			
■	■	■	18			■	19	20				
21	22	23			■	24				■	■	■
25				■	26					27	28	29
30			■	31					■	32		
33			34					■	35			
■	■	■	36				■	37				
38	39	40				■	41			■	■	■
42				■	43	44				45	46	47
48				■	49			■	50			
51				■	52			■	53			

STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Travis Barker, 48; Josh Duhamel, 51; Patrick Warburton, 59; Harland Williams, 61.

Happy Birthday: Try something new and exciting that will spark your imagination. Embrace new beginnings and let your inhibitions fall by the wayside. Be true to yourself and follow the path that exhilarates you. Don't stand in someone else's shadow when it's time to take the helm and show everyone your talents. Putting your best foot forward will lead you into the future with hope, optimism and a lifestyle that fits your personality. Your numbers are 9, 16, 22, 24, 33, 37, 40.

ARIES *(March 21-April 19):* Speak up, make your voice heard and listen to the response you receive. Sharing and compromising will take you on a journey that leads to stability and worthwhile partnerships. Do the groundwork and see what happens. A financial gain is heading your way. ✪✪✪✪

TAURUS *(April 20-May 20):* If you don't like something, it's up to you to bring about change. Don't complain when action is required to make your life better. A direct approach and honest communication will allow insight into who you want on your team. Leave nothing to chance. ✪✪✪

GEMINI *(May 21-June 20):* Draw on your resources, enlist the people you can count on and partner with people who share your sentiments. Personal gain is present if you are confident and take on responsibilities without being asked. ✪✪✪

CANCER *(June 21-July 22):* Take a unique approach to your responsibilities, and you will find a way to overcome any negativity you encounter. Put your energy where it counts, and you'll make an impression on someone who can advance your position. ✪✪✪

LEO *(July 23-Aug. 22):* Know when to lay low and when to make a move. Don't press others to deal with uncomfortable situations at home or work until you are ready to compromise. A social event that offers mental stimulation will lead to suggestions that can help you negotiate. ✪✪✪✪✪

VIRGO *(Aug. 23-Sept. 22):* A change to how you approach learning and using your knowledge to benefit your personal, professional and social position will pay off. A little charm will go a long way if you are factual in your presentation. Don't sugarcoat your message; truth matters. ✪✪

LIBRA *(Sept. 23-Oct. 22):* Consider what things cost. Do the math and put a cap on spending. Look for investment opportunities and better efficiency in your everyday living. A creative approach to earning your living will satisfy your soul, not your savings account. ✪✪✪✪

SCORPIO *(Oct. 23-Nov. 21):* Adjust whatever is in your way and focus on your destination. Get involved in projects that spark your curiosity and put zest into your life. Refuse to let the past hold you back or let unfinished business defuse an opportunity. Engage in life. ✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS *(Nov. 22-Dec. 21):* Pay attention; an opportunity will lead to a cost-efficient move. Speak from the heart and make an emotional plea, and the response you receive will give you the nudge you need to change the way you do things and view those around you. ✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN *(Dec. 22-Jan. 19):* Do whatever it takes to make your life more convenient or comfortable. Cut costs by doing for yourself instead of hiring others. Pick up skills that help you save or raise your earning potential. Live a healthy lifestyle to lower medical expenses. ✪✪✪

AQUARIUS *(Jan. 20-Feb. 18):* Reiterate what you want, and you'll make progress. Take the initiative and revise how you approach responsibilities. Time spent on budgeting to get ahead will pay off. Use the information you gather to help others make the most of their time and money. ✪✪✪✪

PISCES *(Feb. 19-March 20):* Hunker down and focus on your to-do list. The time you spend will be advantageous, and the stress relief will be a bonus. Once complete, you'll have plenty of time to enjoy downtime with loved ones or pursue a project or pastime that brings you joy. ✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are restless, charismatic and curious. You are helpful and resourceful.

✪: Avoid conflicts; work behind the scenes. ✪✪: You can accomplish, but don't rely on others. ✪✪✪: Focus and you'll reach your goals. ✪✪✪✪: Aim high; start new projects. ✪✪✪✪✪: Nothing can stop you; go for gold.

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

	2	7			8			3
	5	3					1	
9	8				7			5
7	6		8	9	4	5	3	
	9	5	6		1	8	2	
	1	4						
			7	4				2
2				5			9	7
	7			8		4	5	

Difficulty: ★★ 11/14

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Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's Answer

2	8	5	9	1	4	7	3	6
6	3	7	5	8	2	4	1	9
1	4	9	3	7	6	8	5	2
7	5	4	8	6	9	1	2	3
9	2	8	1	3	5	6	4	7
3	1	6	4	2	7	5	9	8
8	9	2	7	4	1	3	6	5
5	7	1	6	9	3	2	8	4
4	6	3	2	5	8	9	7	1

Difficulty: ★ 11/13

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the **WONDERWORD.**

SALTWATER POOLS **Solution: 8 letters**

T	N	E	M	T	A	E	R	T	E	S	T	I	N	G
H	C	H	L	O	R	I	N	E	H	T	O	O	S	E
E	H	O	T	T	U	B	R	I	A	H	V	K	P	N
R	E	E	M	Y	K	L	I	S	T	T	I	B	R	E
A	M	S	Ⓐ	F	A	P	A	A	F	N	N	D	I	R
P	I	I	Ⓟ	L	O	N	B	O	O	H	Y	I	N	A
Y	S	U	Ⓢ	R	I	R	S	I	C	S	L	S	G	T
T	T	R	E	T	O	N	T	K	Y	E	A	I	S	O
I	R	C	I	M	O	A	G	S	V	R	G	N	W	R
N	Y	Z	I	S	L	A	A	I	S	F	O	F	I	R
U	E	N	S	U	N	L	T	R	D	E	O	E	M	E
M	E	E	C	A	T	C	C	L	E	A	N	C	S	T
M	L	R	E	T	A	I	L	O	F	X	E	T	U	L
O	I	C	T	R	O	S	E	R	O	O	D	N	I	I
C	O	N	C	E	N	T	R	A	T	I	O	N	T	F

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Yesterday's Answer: Time

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Browns rally to stun Ravens behind Watson's passing, pick-6 by Newsome

AP

Cleveland Browns place-kicker Dustin Hopkins celebrates the game winning field goal against the Baltimore Ravens during the second half on an NFL football game Sunday, Nov. 12, 2023, in Baltimore.

BALTIMORE (AP)—Dustin Hopkins kicked a 40-yard field goal as time expired to cap a furious Cleveland rally in the fourth quarter, and the Browns edged the Baltimore Ravens 33-31 on Sunday.

Cleveland (6-3) trailed 31-17 before Deshaun Watson delivered the type of victory the Browns have been waiting for from their high-priced quarterback.

Watson threw a 10-yard touchdown pass to Elijah Moore with 8:57 remaining. Then one of Lamar Jackson's passes caromed high into the air and was picked off by Greg Newsome II, and he returned the interception 34 yards for a TD just 41 seconds later.

The Ravens stayed ahead 31-30 because Hopkins missed the extra point, but Cleveland got the ball back and drove 58 yards for the winning kick.

Baltimore (7-3) had a four-game winning streak snapped, and the victory by Cleveland tightened the race in the AFC North significantly.

Watson got off to a terrible start — his first pass of the game was picked off and returned for a touchdown by Kyle Hamilton — but he finished with 213 yards passing and 37 rushing.

The Ravens led 14-0 less than five minutes into the game, 24-9 early in the fourth quarter and 31-17 early in the fourth, but couldn't hold on. Lamar Jackson threw for 223 yards and a touchdown but was intercepted twice.

LIONS 41, CHARGERS 38

INGLEWOOD, Calif. (AP)—Jared Goff threw for 333 yards and two touchdowns, Riley Patterson kicked a 41-yard, game-winning field goal as time expired, and Detroit beat Los Angeles.

The Chargers (4-5) tied it at 38-all with 3:34 remaining when Justin Herbert threw his fourth touchdown pass of the day, a 38-yarder to Keenan Allen on fourth-and-1.

Goff responded by leading the Lions (7-2) on a nine-play, 53-yard drive, culminating in Patterson's kick. The key play was Goff's 6-yard completion to rookie tight end Sam LaPorta on fourth-and-2 from the LA 26-yard line.

Goff, playing in SoFi Stadium for the second time since being traded by the Rams to the Lions in 2021, was 23 of 33.

TEXANS 30, BENGALS 27

CINCINNATI (AP)—Rookie C.J. Stroud directed a last-minute, game-winning drive for the second straight week, finishing with 356 yards passing and leading Houston past Cincinnati.

With the game tied at 27-all and 1:33 remaining, Stroud moved the Texans 55 yards in six plays to set up a 38-yard field goal by Matt Ammendola as time expired. Ammendola had just been signed on Tuesday because Ka'imi Fairbairn suffered a quadriceps injury a week earlier.

Stroud connected with Dalton Schultz for 25 yards and Noah Brown for 22 yards on the decisive drive. Brown finished with seven catches for a season-high 172 yards, and Devin Singletary rushed for 150 yards and a touchdown on 30 carries for the Texans (5-4).

CARDINALS 25, FALCONS 23

GLENDALE, Ariz. (AP)—Kyler Murray threw for 249 yards and ran for a touchdown in his return from a serious knee injury, Matt Prater made a game-winning 23-yard field goal as time expired, and Arizona beat Atlanta to snap a six-game skid.

Murray made a pair of important plays on the game-winning drive, providing reminders of why he was the No. 1 overall pick in 2019 and also why the Cardinals signed him to a $230.5 million contract before the 2022 season.

His 13-yard scramble on third-and-10—and evading multiple sack attempts—helped keep Arizona's drive alive. Then he hit tight end Trey McBride on a 33-yard pass that set up the short field goal.

That made it an easy kick for Prater, who also connected from 56, 51 and 46 yards.

SEAHAWKS 29, COMMANDERS 26

SEATTLE (AP)—Jason Myers converted his fifth field goal of the game, a 43-yarder as time expired, and Seattle held off Washington.

Seahawks quarterback Geno Smith and Commanders QB Sam Howell traded big throws and touchdown passes in the closing minutes, but it was Smith who had the the final chance at the victory and came through.

Howell pulled Washington even at 26-26 on a 35-yard touchdown pass to Dyami Brown with 52 seconds remaining. Smith took over and made a pair of big throws to DK Metcalf: a 17-yard strike on third-and-4 and a 27-yard pass to the Washington 25. Smith spiked the ball with 3 seconds left and Myers concluded his perfect day for Seattle (6-3), which remained tied with San Francisco atop the NFC West.

Smith was 31 of 47 for 369 yards and a pair of touchdowns. He hit Tyler Lockett for a 5-yard TD with 3:47 remaining.

49ERS 34, JAGUARS 3

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. (AP)—Brock Purdy threw three touchdown passes, including a 66-yarder to George Kittle, and San Francisco drubbed Jacksonville to end a three-game skid.

Deebo Samuel returned from a three-game absence and had a 23-yard scoring run for the 49ers (6-3), who stopped Jacksonville's five-game winning streak and reestablished themselves as a Super Bowl contender following a bye week.

San Francisco dominated both lines of scrimmage and controlled the game from the opening drive. The Niners ran for 147 yards against one of the league's top run defenses and sacked Trevor Lawrence five times. Nick Bosa was a menace all game, and newly acquired defensive end Chase Young got in on one of the sacks.

The Jaguars (6-3), meanwhile, embarrassed themselves at every turn. They had a five-possession stretch in which they fumbled, kicked a field goal, threw an interception, fumbled and threw another interception. Lawrence was responsible for three of the team's four turnovers.

RAIDERS 16, JETS 12

LAS VEGAS (AP)—Josh Jacobs rushed for 116 yards, Aidan O'Connell connected with fellow rookie Michael Mayer for the game's only touchdown, and Las Vegas beat New York to improve to 2-0 under interim coach Antonio Pierce.

The Raiders (5-5) turned away two late attempts by the Jets to rally. Robert Spillane intercepted Zach Wilson's pass at the Las Vegas 15 with 1:22 left, and after the Raiders punted, Wilson's heave to the end zone fell incomplete on the game's final play.

Jacobs ended a 14-game streak of failing to gain 100 yards, getting 27 attempts as Pierce committed to a run-first attack, but his fumble late in the fourth quarter gave the Jets (4-5) a chance.

O'Connell became the second Raiders rookie quarterback to win two of his first three starts — Mike Rae in 1976 was the other — by passing for 153 yards with one interception.

VIKINGS 27, SAINTS 19

MINNEAPOLIS (AP)—Joshua Dobbs kept Minnesota's offense on track in his first start, throwing for a career-high 268 yards as Minnesota beat New Orleans for its fifth straight victory.

T.J. Hockenson outgained the Saints by himself in the first half with 10 catches for 128 yards and a score for the Vikings (6-4), who took a 24-3 lead into the break but stalled from there.

Saints quarterback Derek Carr exited the game in the third quarter with a concussion and a shoulder injury. Jameis Winston replaced him with the Saints trailing 27-3 and delivered touchdown passes to Chris Olave and A.T. Perry.

But Winston was intercepted by Mekhi Blackmon and Byron Murphy on downfield heaves to end consecutive fourth-quarter possessions.

New Orleans (5-5) saw its two-game winning streak end.

COWBOYS 49, GIANTS 17

ARLINGTON, Texas (AP)—Dak Prescott threw for 404 yards and four touchdowns while running for another score, and Dallas routed New York for the second time this season.

The Cowboys (6-3) won 40-0 in the opener in New Jersey, and the 72-point margin was their largest in a sweep of an NFC East opponent, topping their 66-point edge against Philadelphia in 1969. Dallas extended its home winning streak to 12 games.

The Giants (2-8) were outgained 368-27 in the first half with Tommy DeVito as the first undrafted rookie to start for them at quarterback in the common draft era, save for a strike-replacement game in 1987.

DeVito, who replaced Daniel Jones last week when the franchise QB sustained a season-ending knee injury, was 14 of 27 for 86 yards with two TDs and an interception.

The Cowboys — whose 640 total yards were 12 shy of the franchise record — had a 54-0 combined first-half margin in the two games.

COLTS 10, PATRIOTS 6

FRANKFURT, Germany (AP)—Jonathan Taylor ran for a first-quarter touchdown, Mac Jones threw a crucial interception in the fourth quarter, and Indianapolis held on to beat New England.

Jones was sacked five times in the first half and was picked off by Julian Blackmon at the 1-yard line after leading the Patriots into position for a go-ahead score. Jones has a league-worst 10 interceptions this season.

Bailey Zappe replaced Jones on the New England's final possession. The Patriots fell to 2-8, their worst record since Bill Belichick's first year as their coach in 2000.

Gardner Minshew threw for 194 yards for the Colts (5-5), who won an international game for the first time. Taylor had 69 yards on 23 carries, and Michael Pittman had eight receptions for 84 yards.

Rhamondre Stevenson had 20 carries for 88 yards, and Ezekiel Elliott added 13 carries for 54 yards for the Patriots.

STEELERS 23, PACKERS 19

PITTSBURGH (AP)—Jaylen Warren and Najee Harris combined for 183 yards rushing and two touchdowns, and Pittsburgh beat Green Bay.

Chris Boswell kicked three field goals for the Steelers (6-3), who relied on big plays by their defense and special teams to win their ninth straight game decided by eight points or fewer.

Patrick Peterson blocked an extra point and later tipped a ball that turned into Keanu Neal's interception in the end zone with 3:20 remaining.

Green Bay got the ball back with 59 seconds to go and drove deep into Pittsburgh territory, but Damontae Kazee picked off Jordan Love's last-gasp throw to the end zone. Kazee returned it 30 yards before stepping out of bounds with time expired.

BUCCANEERS 20, TITANS 6

TAMPA, Fla. (AP)—Baker Mayfield threw for 278 yards and two touchdowns, and Tampa bay beat Tennessee to stop a four-game skid.

Rachaad White turned a first-quarter screen pass into a 43-yard TD. Mike Evans redeemed himself from dropping a pass in the end zone with a 22-yard scoring catch and finished with six receptions for 143 yards for the Buccaneers (4-5).

A week after yielding five TD passes and an NFL rookie record 470 yards through the air to Houston's C.J. Stroud, the Bucs' defense fared much better against another first-year quarterback, Will Levis, who was sacked four times and intercepted once while failing to get his team into the end zone.

Mayfield completed 18 of 29 passes and shrugged off a first-quarter interception to end Tampa Bay's longest skid since 2019.

Tennessee (3-6) lost for the fourth time in five games. The Titans have dropped eight straight on the road dating to last season.

Levis led a field goal drive on Tennessee's first possession but finished 19 of 39 for 199 yards in his third pro start. An injury-weakened offensive line struggled to protect the rookie, and Levis got little help from a running game that produced 42 yards on 16 carries.

Maxey has career-high 50 points, 76ers beat Pacers for 8th straight win

PHILADELPHIA (AP)—Tyrese Maxey scored a career-high 50 points, Joel Embiid had 37 points and the Philadelphia 76ers improved to 8-1 with their eighth straight victory, beating the Indiana Pacers 137-126 on Sunday night.

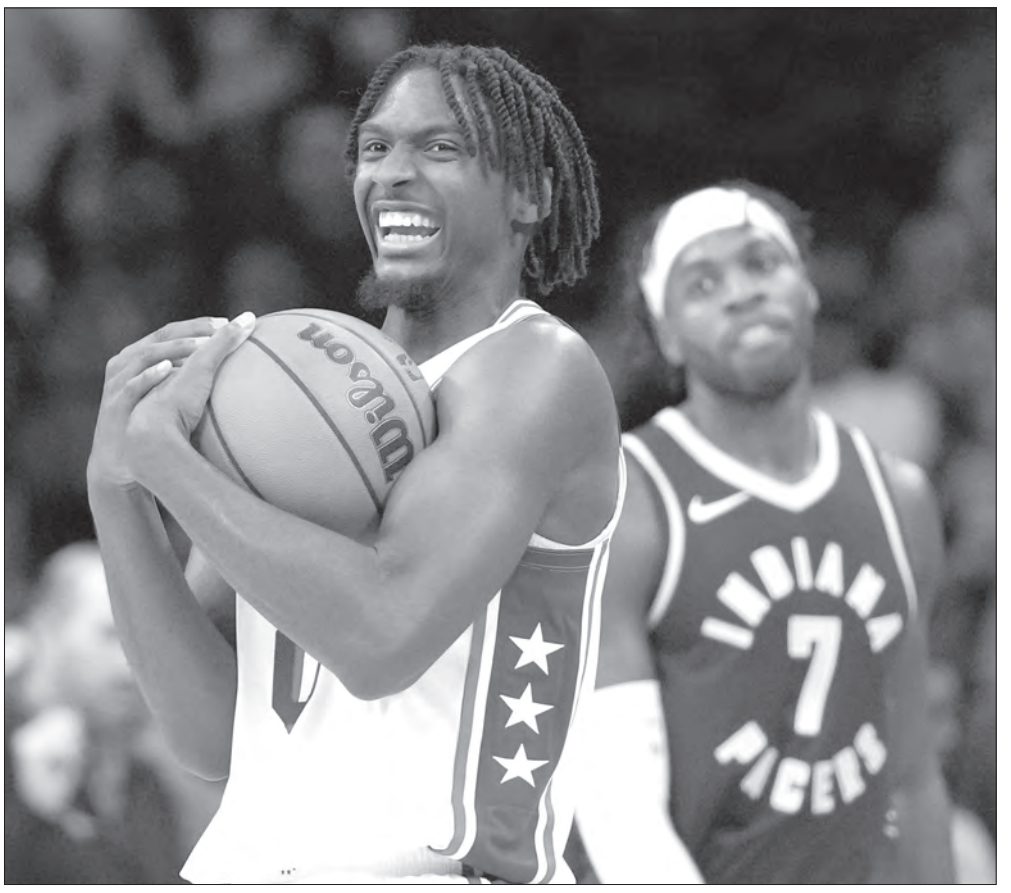
Maxey was 20 for 32 from the field and had seven rebounds, five assists and three blocks in the first of two straight games in Philadelphia between the teams. His previous high was 44 against Toronto on Oct. 28, 2022.

Embiid had 13 rebounds in 33 minutes. The 76ers are off to their best nine-game start since opening 10-0 in 2000-01 en route to the NBA Finals.

Philadelphia played without Kelly Oubre Jr. after he broke a rib when hit by a car in a hit-and-run incident Saturday night,

Tyrese Haliburton led Indiana with 25 points. The Pacers had won three a row.

The teams will meet again Tuesday night at Wells Fargo Center in the NBA In-Season Tournament.



AP

Philadelphia 76ers' Tyrese Maxey reacts past Indiana Pacers' Buddy Hield in the final minute of an NBA basketball game, Sunday, Nov. 12, 2023, in Philadelphia.

ROCKETS 107, NUGGETS 104

HOUSTON (AP)—Fred VanVleet scored 26 points, Alperen Sengun added 23 and Houston beat Denver for its sixth straight victory, its longest winning streak since taking seven straight in January 2021.

Nikola Jokic had his fourth triple-double of the season for Denver, finishing with 36 points, 21 rebounds and 11 assists. The defending champion Nuggets dropped to 8-2.

Nuggets star Jamal Murray missed his third straight game because of a strained right hamstring.

TIMBERWOLVES 117, WARRIORS 110

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—Anthony Edwards scored 33 points and Minnesota overpowered Golden State for its sixth straight victory.

Karl-Anthony Towns added 21 points and a season-best 14 rebounds for Minnesota in the first of two straight games between the teams in San Francisco.

Stephen Curry scored 38 points, but the cold-shooting Warriors didn't get enough other contributions to keep up with Minnesota's fast-paced attack. Golden State shot only 12 for 43 from 3-point range.

The teams will meet Tuesday at Chase Center for an In-Season Tournament game.

MAVERICKS 136, PELICANS 124

NEW ORLEANS (AP)—Kyrie Irving made 7 of 10 3-pointers and scored 35 points, Luka Doncic had 15 of his 30 points in a 42-point third quarter and Dallas beat short-handed New Orleans.

In the first of two straight games between the teams in New Orleans, the Mavericks shot 20 of 53 from long range. Dallas iced it in the third quarter, making 8 of 13 3-pointers and outscoring the Pelicans 42-31.

Brandon Ingram led New Orleans with 20 points and Zion Williamson had 18. The Pelicans, without the injured CJ McCollum, Herb Jones and Trey Murphy, have lost five straight.

The teams will meet again Tuesday night in the NBA In-Season Tournament.

LAKERS 116, TRAIL BLAZERS 110

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Anthony Davis had 30 points and 13 rebounds, Rui Hachimura scored eight of his 19 points in the final 3:43 and Los Angeles overcame LeBron James' injury absence to beat Portland.

James missed a game for the first time this season, sitting out because of a bruised left calf. The leading scorer in NBA history injured his shin in a collision with Kevin Durant during the first quarter in Phoenix on Friday night.

Jerami Grant scored 23 points for Portland.

GRIZZLIES 105, CLIPPERS 101

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Desmond Bane scored 27 points and Memphis won for the second time this season, beating reeling Los Angeles.

Memphis improved to 2-8 while waiting for All-Star guard Ja Morant to return from a 25-game suspension next month.

Paul George scored 26 points for Los Angeles James Harden had 11. He hit a tying 3-pointer with 1:33 left but missed another in the closing seconds. The Clippers have yet to win in four games since he was traded to the team.

THUNDER 111, SUNS 99

PHOENIX (AP)—Shai Gilgeous-Alexander scored 35 points, Jalen Williams had 31 and Oklahoma used a big fourth quarter to beat Phoenix.

The Thunder outscored Phoenix 31-13 in the fourth quarter and won despite being outrebounded 52-33.

Gilgeous-Alexander and Williams combined to make 24 of 38 shots (63%) and the Thunder shot 49%. The Suns shot 38%, making 2 of 21 shots in the fourth quarter.

Kevin Durant led the Suns with 28 points and nine rebounds, and was 11 for 11 from the free-throw line. The Suns, playing without All-Star guard Devin Booker and backup Eric Gordon, fell to 4-6.

NETS 102, WIZARDS 94

NEW YORK (AP)—Mikal Bridges had 27 points and 13 rebounds and Brooklyn recovered to beat Washington and after blowing a 17-point lead.

Cam Johnson added 14 points and starting center Nic Claxton, in just his second game of the season, had 10 points and 13 rebounds to spark a huge rebounding advantage. Brooklyn outrebounded Washington 66-42.

Rookie Bilal Coulibaly, Victor Wembanyama's teammate last season in France, had a season-high 20 points for Washington.

KNICKS 129, HORNETS 107

NEW YORK (AP)—Julius Randle had 23 points, five rebounds and five assists and New York scored a season high in its victory over Charlotte.

R.J. Barrett scored 24 points, Jalen Brunson had 23 points and Immanuel Quickley had 17 points. The Knicks shot a season-high 54% to win their third straight game.

LaMelo Ball led Charlotte with 32 points, seven rebounds and six assists.

HEAT 118, SPURS 113

SAN ANTONIO (AP)—Duncan Robinson scored 26 points, Bam Adebayo added 24 points and 11 rebounds and Miami beat San Antonio for its fifth straight victory.

Keldon Johnson had 20 points and 12 rebounds for San Antonio. Victor Wembanyama added 18 points and 11 rebounds in the Spurs' fifth straight loss.

BULLS 119, PISTONS 108

CHICAGO (AP)—DeMar DeRozan scored 29 points, Nikola Vucevic added 21 points and 12 rebounds and Chicago handed Detroit its eighth straight loss.

Kevin Knox II, who signed a contract with the Pistons on Wednesday, keyed the Detroit offense with 18 points on 7-for-8 shooting.

Morant 'pushing every button possible' to be ready for Dec. return, coach says

AP

Memphis Grizzlies' Ja Morant (12) drives to the basket against Los Angeles Lakers' Jarred Vanderbilt during the first half in Game 6 of a first-round NBA basketball playoff series April 28, 2023, in Los Angeles.

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Off to an NBA-worst 1-8 start, the Memphis Grizzlies sure could use Ja Morant in the lineup. They'll have to wait until mid-December though.

That's when the two-time All-Star guard's 25-game suspension is set to end. Morant can't be in the arena when the Grizzlies are playing games, but he's around the team the rest of the time.

"He's fully involved in practices, film sessions, individual workouts, team dinners, the social things that they're doing in the hotel room after games," coach Taylor Jenkins said before Sunday's game against the Clippers.

Morant was punished by the league as the result of twice being filmed on social media displaying a gun. He was first suspended eight games in March after a video surfaced of him brandishing a gun at a strip club in Denver, and then was set down for 25 games to start this season after another video was recorded inside a car in May.

"He's got a great positive attitude throughout this," Jenkins said. "I know it can be frustrating for him, the team not having him around. We understand the circumstances."

The soonest Morant is eligible to return is Dec. 19 at New Orleans.

"He's pushing every button possible to get himself as prepared, but also help this team as best as he can through his brilliant IQ, his care factor, his voice, his presence, the spirit he brings," Jenkins said. "It's been awesome to see him take on, I don't want to say a leadership role, but just his investment in the group has been awesome."

However, NBA Commissioner Adam Silver has said that before the 24-year-old returns to action, he will be required to "formulate and fulfill a program with the league that directly addresses the circumstances that led him to repeat this destructive behavior."

The details of such a program haven't been specified.

Morant has been practicing with the team's second and third units and has been "fully accepting of it," said Jenkins, adding there's been no discussion about whether Morant will start or come off the bench when he returns.

After back-to-back seasons of over 50 wins, the Grizzlies are struggling because of Morant's absence as well as injuries to Derrick Rose and Xavier Tillman Sr. Big man Steven Adams is out for the season, too.

Meanwhile, Jenkins and Morant have been having a series of one-on-one discussions about basketball and life.

"Learned a lot from him," the coach said. "He's learned a lot from me as well."

Memphis coach Jenkins fined $25,000 for public criticism of officiating

NEW YORK (AP)—Memphis coach Taylor Jenkins was fined $25,000 by the NBA on Sunday, two days after he publicly criticized officiating following his team's loss to Utah.

Utah took 29 foul shots in that game, while Memphis took 13. The Jazz won 127-121, in a contest where Memphis center Jaren Jackson Jr. was ejected in the third quarter after getting two technical fouls, and Jenkins got a technical in that same sequence as well.

"Saddle up. One of the most poorly officiated games I've ever seen," Jenkins said after that game. "Record it. I'm fine with it. (Expletive) atrocious."

Memphis was taking an NBA-worst 1-8 record into its game Sunday afternoon against the Los Angeles Clippers.

Addalee, Kyle fastest in Veterans 5K

By LEIGH GASES
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REPORTER

Addalee Taflinger and Kyle Deleon Guerrero were the fastest runners in their respective divisions in the renamed Run Saipan Veterans 5K course that was concurrent with the Saipan International Airport 8K cross country run last Saturday.

For the women's division and overall, Taflinger zoomed into first place at 27:31, just a few seconds in front of her sister, Kaylen, who came in at 27:54. Third place went to Ronalyn Reyes who clicked in at 55:22.

Tafflinger

Guerrero

Out of 33 overall runners in the 8K and 5K race, Deleon Guerrero was the only runner in the men's division, who came in at 33:15.

Twenty-year-old Deleon Guerrero said the course was not that bad for him because he runs it mostly every day. He said he was behind the Taflinger sisters the whole time and was amazed at how fast they were.

This was his first Run Saipan race and dedicates his win to his father.

For Saipan International School middle school student Addalee, she said she liked the course because it was on the road most of the time. "There was some grass and a big hill, along with potholes and so that was hard. I was afraid I was going to fall, but it was a good race," she said.

As for the lead, Addalee said she was in front of her younger sister the whole time leading her because she didn't really know where to go. Throughout the race, she said, "When we turned one of the corners, I looked back and I couldn't see anyone behind us, but when we were at the turnaround, there were people behind us about 50 meters or something."

Addalee and her family are part of the Run Saipan club and they do a lot of races. She not only runs, but also plays for her school's soccer, volleyball, and badminton teams. When asked how she likes running, she said, "I like it. It's more exhausting than other sports, but I feel good after I run."

Hopwood 2 defeats Tanapag 2 as MS v-ball continues

Matching energy brought both Hopwood Middle School 2 and Tanapag Middle School 2's girls to a tie-breaker set, where Hopwood 2 took the win last Thursday at the NMIVA-PSS Interscholastic Girls Middle School Volleyball League 2023-2024 at the Marianas High School Gymnasium.

With Tanapag 2 dominating the first set 21-12, it wasn't long until the Hopwood 2 revved up their engines and took over the second set with a 21-14 victory to level the counts at two sets apiece. The Hilitais carried the energy to the end during the tiebreaker set with a 15-7 win, which made their supporters go wild.

Later, Hopwood 2 coach Cyrus Ybanez said, "The girls were nervous, but man I'm excited [because] we won..."

He said the 30-member team has been training hard since the season began, especially with all new players from sixth, seventh, and eighth grades. "It's hard but we do it. Yeah it's possible," he added.

With this season, Ybanez is keeping his hopes up. "I think we're going to do good, but I think right now our biggest opponent is maybe [Grace Christian Academy], because they're really good. But we just beat Tanapag, so I think we're going to do good. We're off to a good start," he added.

CHRYSTAL MARINO
The Hopwood Middle School 2 girls team poses with coach Dominic Tudela after their win against Tanapag Middle School 2 last Thursday at the NMIVA-PSS Interscholastic Girls Middle School Volleyball League 2023-2024 at the Marianas High School Gymnasium

In other games played, Francisco M. Sablan Middle School 2 edged Mount Carmel School 2, 21-18, 18-21, 15-12; GCA 2 dominated Dandan Middle School 2, 21-4, 21-15. Mt. Carmel School 1 topped Hopwood 1, 21-17, 20-20, 15-11, GCA took down Saipan International School, 21-11, 21-8, and Dandan Middle School swept Saipan Community School, 22-20, 21-10.

PLUS

From page 20

Blue Haus remained stuck at 57 points while A Plus' smooth, open plays and assists allowed them to score 6 more points—thanks to Joel Javier, Chris Sanchez, and Tim Wesley, that established their commanding 12-point lead until the final seconds wound down.

Throughout the game, A Plus' defense was their best offense as Andrew "Uncle Drew" Ashburn, Gino Libuw, and De Shawn Reign's sheer height and bulk and fast hands rejected Blue Haus players left and right and caused an apparent tearing down of their confidence and accuracy.

It was a physical game from both ends as they racked up fouls and free throws, but it was the combined A Plus' impenetrable defense and Blue Haus' lackluster offense that handed the championship to the undefeated A Plus Team.

A Plus' lead scorer was speedy and sharpshooting Chris Sanchez with 20 points, while Libuw contributed mostly from 3-point range with 16, followed by Ashburn's 10 points.

For Blue Haus, Guiab scored 15, while Tony Diaz had 11 markers, and Jay-R Barrios put up 9 points.

A Plus head coach Edong Echavez breathed a sigh of relief after the finals as he said they finally beat Blue Haus.

He said on beating them, "It's great! It's our first time to beat them." He said that this is their second time meeting them in the finals—the first was from another basketball league—which they lost by 2 points. "This is a good rematch for us," he said.

Their strategy to beat them, he said, was "always our defense—we're undefeated because of our solid defense. That's the key."

As for what he thinks about Blue Haus, he said, "They're still the team to beat and they'll always be the team to beat."

He then thanked their team's sponsors, Saipan Marine Corp. and A Plus Corp., their coaches and staff, along with the league's organizers, the Saipan Maga'haga Lady Eagles Group and Saipan Magalahi Eagles Club.

A Plus Team 69 – Sanchez 20, Libuw 16, Ashburn 11, Reign 10, Wesley 8, Javier 4.

Blue Haus 57 – Guiab 15, T. Diaz 11, Barrios 9, Esdrelon 8, E. Diaz 5, Talania 4, Santos 3, De Dios 2.

Scoring by quarters: 15-11, 29-27, 45-39, 69-57.

Krishnan conquers October tourney

By MARK RABAGO
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EDITOR

Das Krishnan is the latest qualifier to the Fil-Taga Ace of Aces Tournament.

This, after the Crowne Plaza Resort Saipan Banquets and Events director topped the October tournament last Oct. 21 at the LaoLao Bay Golf & Resort.

The 67-year-old shot a net score of 72 to earn the win in the Fil-Taga October Ace of the Month Tournament.

He actually finished tied with Freddie Cataluna and Adony Matutino after 18 holes of golf, but edged them via scorecard tiebreak.

Krishnan, a 9-handicapper, scored a gross score of 81 built around a 42 in the front nine and a 39 in the back nine.

Krishnan

Cataluna, one of the best local golfers with a sublime 2 handicap, finished with a gross of 74 after a 38 in the first nine holes and an even-par 36 in the last nine.

Matutino carded a pre-handicap score of 88 after the 16-handicapper had a split of 42 and 46.

The 67-year-old Krishnan thanked Cataluna for correcting his mistakes during the October tourney.

"The weather was good and the golf course was in good condition. I had a bad start as usual but Freddie saw some mistakes so he polished me then the game came around."

Aside from Cataluna, he also thanked Ruben Avendeno for "keeping me in the loop" on the tournaments of Fil-Taga.

With the win last October, Krishnan now joins Dan Ganacias (January), Hak Chon Bae (February), Tony Cabrera (March), Emil Padernal (April), Freddie Cataluna (May), Wil Maui (June), and Edgar Abalos (August) as early qualifiers for the season-ending Fil-Taga Ace of Aces Tournament.

NMI

From page 20

ficials list are assistant coach Konomi Suzuki, goalkeeper coach Jersh Angeles, team manager Catherine Attao-Toves, kit manager Davy Laxa, and physiotherapist Hazel Mabaza.

"We will take every opportunity to play against these teams. Even after facing Tahiti and Fiji, we are still looking forward to battling two more squads from other brackets depending on the rankings after the pool play," Mita said.

The Top 1 finisher in each pool will advance to the semis and the winners of these matches will collide for the gold medal match on Dec. 2. The remaining teams will still play in the consolation games to determine the final rankings.

After its first match against Fiji, the NMI national team will have several days of rest, which according to Mita is favorable to the squad.

"This will give us more time to adjust further with the environment and make room for recovery. Right now, the team is in good shape, as players have been playing in the M-League for the past two months so they are peaking well in time for the Pacific Games. However, when they reach Solomons, it's going to be a different environment, as they have to adopt fast and the more time we get to practice before the first and second game, the better for us," said Mita.

The NMI Men's National Football Team and the rest of Team Marianas delegation will leave Saipan for the Solomons on Nov. 15 via charter flight and will reach Honiara in the afternoon of the same day. Team Marianas is supported by Joeten Daidai Foundation, Triple J, Crowne Plaza Resort, IT&E, IP&E, Tan Siu Lin Foundation, Mobil, Tan Holdings, and McDonald's of Guam & Saipan. ***(PR)***

GOLFERS

From page 20

while Sasamoto and Jones are newcomers on the national squad. Camacho is Jin's coach last year and is no stranger to golf competitions in the region, having represented the NMI in Mini and Pacific Games as a player on several occasions.

"This is a whole new team from the squad that the won bronze, a more experienced team this time around. With that, I feel like we're more pressured to bring home a medal than the last team," said Santos.

He added that playing in a nine-hole course in Honiara will be a challenge and they need to make the adjustments early

"I think if we strategize on how the course is laid out and see what options we have to make things easier for us to compete in someone else's arena, things will go our way and we can possibly bring home the gold," Santos said.

Both the men's and women's individual events will be a four-round competition and the NMI golfers will be playing against the representatives of Cook Islands, Fiji, New Caledonia, PNG, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tahiti, Tonga, and Vanuatu.

The NMI National Golf Team and the rest of the Team Marianas are supported by Joeten Daidai Foundation, Triple J, Crowne Plaza Resort, IT&E, IP&E, Tan Siu Lin Foundation, Mobil, Tan Holdings, and McDonald's Guam & Saipan. ***(PR)***

Browns rally to stun Ravens behind Watson's passing, pick-6 by Newsome.

PAGE 17

Saipan Tribune
Sports

Addalee, Kyle fastest in Veterans 5K.

PAGE 19

A Plus dethrones Blue Haus for masters title

LEIGH GASES

A Plus Team-Saipan Marine Corp. right, poses with Blue Haus after their championship game in the masters division in the Inaugural SMEC-SMLEG Invitational Basketball Tournament 2023 late last Saturday night at the Gualo Rai Basketball Court.

By LEIGH GASES
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REPORTER

Undefeated A Plus Team-Saipan Marine Corp. held steadfast against a worthy opponent and finally defeated archrival Blue Haus, 69-57, for the masters division championship of the Inaugural SMEC-SMLEG Invitational Basketball Tournament 2023 late last Saturday night at an jam-packed Gualo Rai Basketball Court.

It was crunch time for Blue Haus with just 2 minutes left as they tried to make a push into A Plus Team territory—who held commanding leads throughout the game. But from a 10-point 54-44 A Plus lead, Blue Haus chopped away at it and made it 57-63 from rush plays and a 3-pointer by Junar Guiab.

However, A Plus tightened their defense with arms and hands flailing in the air as the ball bounced and soared from A Plus to Blue Haus players in the basketball's path—only to grace A Plus with more possession that they capitalized on and converted into much needed field goals.

See PLUS on Page 19

NMI looks forward to challenging football teams in Pacific

The NMI Men's National Football Team challenging the national squads in the Pacific region is a rare occasion and head coach Michiteru Mita said the group is excited for the opportunity as they compete in the 2023 Pacific Games in Honiara, the Solomon Islands.

The NMI Men's National Team is in Group C of the 12-team football competition that will run from Nov. 17 to Dec. 2, 2023. NMI will make its historic debut in the 2023 Pacific Games on Nov. 18 against Fiji before closing pool play against Tahiti on Nov. 24. Group A's New Caledonia, Tonga, and Cook Islands; Group B's Papua New Guinea, Tuvalu, and Vanuatu; and Group D's Samoa, American Samoa, and

host Solomon Islands are the other participating countries.

"We are more excited than nervous about our first experience to compete against Pacific teams that are under the Oceania Football Confederation. We have Fiji, which is ranked No. 170 and Tahiti at No. 163. These are higher-ranked teams than the squads we usually faced when we play in the AFC (Asian Football Confederation) or EAFF (East Asian Football Federation), Macau (No. 187) and Mongolia (No. 190), so it will be very interesting to learn how Tahiti and Fiji play," said Mita.

The NMI Men's National Football Team is bringing in 23 players and six officials to Solomons. The squad is composed of Jerald Aquino, Anthony Austria, Dev Bachani, Anthony Bergancia, Casey Chambers, Mark Jainier Chavez, Mark Costales, Leland Deleon Guerrero, Akira and Wataru Kadokura, Zhi Xiang Lin, Brian Lubao, Ariel Narvaez, Jonne Navarro, Nolan Ngewakl, Ronnel Ocanada, Daniell Mar Pablo, Tyler Omelau, Markus and Merrick Toves, and Jireh Yobech. Joining Mita on the of-

See NMI on Page 19

Golfers feeling pressured to deliver medals

After winning medals in the 2022 Northern Marianas Pacific Mini Games, NMI golfers are feeling the pressure of bringing home hardware from the 2023 Pacific Games in Honiara, the Solomons Islands.

Northern Marianas Pacific Mini Games Junior Athlete awardee Zhimin Jin, who earned a gold medal in the individual event in last year's competition, personally admitted the pressure that goes with representing the island's anew after a successful campaign in the Mini Games.

"To be very honest, I do feel pressured to bring back good news from the Solomon Games. However, my goal for this upcoming competition is to just try my best and focus on my game," said the Marianas High School student.

Jin is the NMI's lone female entry in the golf event in the 2023 Pacific Games. In the men's field, Team Marianas will have Joe "Kamikaze" Camacho, Ben Jones Jr., Joe Sasamoto, and Franco Santos. Marco Peter is the team manager. The golf competition will take place from Nov. 22 to 25, 2023 at the Honiara Golf Club.

Santos was part of the NMI Men's Team that won the bronze medal in last year's Pacific Mini Games,

See GOLFERS on Page 19